

HOME NEWS



Night puts a shine on Trafalgar Square with its (left to right) fountains, Norwegian Christmas tree, National Gallery, South Africa House, and street lights sparkling like diamonds.

Home Office rejects calls for harsher regime in the prisons

By Peter Evans

Home Affairs Correspondent

Calls for imprisonment to be made harsher are rejected by the Home Office in an important policy review published today.

It describes as mistaken the view that making prison a more disagreeable experience would deter the offender from committing further crimes and serve as a salutary warning to others.

A custodial sentence is by nature inherently unpleasant and its main deterrent effect lies in the deprivation of the offender's liberty and the restrictions necessarily arising from the regime it says.

Even if it were possible to revert to such nineteenth-century devices as the treadmill or the crank there was no reason to suppose that custodial sentences could be made any more effective, in terms of the protection of society, by such means.

The review is an expression of the wish of Mr Rees, Home Secretary, for more open discussion of policy options. In a foreword he says he wished to generate public debate.

The review says that the preservation of the prisoner's humanity and the prevention of deterioration calls for as high a priority as efforts to bring about the inmate's improvement. But much of the rest of the 168-page review of the work of the prison service in England and Wales must generate the difficulties faced in attempting to realize that aim.

Even the success of some of the measures introduced as alternatives to prisons has made the difficulties of running them more intractable. They have not only creamed off some of the more able and manageable elements that leavened the prison population in times past but have also left more exposed the build-up of prisoners serving very long sentences.

That build-up has resulted not least from the declining use and eventual abolition of the death penalty for murder and from the increasing use of life imprisonment for other offences.

For every life sentence prisoner there is hope of eventual release, even though the prospect may be a remote one. But the Home Office admits: "There may be some men who are so dangerous that they will never reach the point where they can safely be released."

In 1913, the vast bulk of prison sentences imposed were up to two weeks—50,561, compared with only 3,162 in 1975.

Prisons and the Prisoner (Stationery Office, £5.25).

Social trends, 3: Drugs cost more than the doctors who prescribe them

Life lasts longer for non-manual workers in the South

By Annabel Ferriman

Growing hospital waiting lists, an almost static infant mortality rate, and much higher death rates in the North than the South are some of the black-spots on the health services.

The latest volume of *Social Trends*, published by the Central Statistical Office, shows that hospital waiting lists rose from 60,000 patients in 1966 to 722,000 in 1976, most of whom were awaiting operations.

Despite that trend, however, the number of people in private medical insurance schemes has increased from 1.5 million in 1975 to 2.25 million. During the same period premium rates have risen by 26 per cent.

The much longer sentences are being served in obsolete buildings, deriving from a failure to provide a single purpose-built closed prison at closed prison at the end of 1975, only eight were held in custody in the United Kingdom. The countries with the most significant reductions were Japan, where the rate fell by 82 per cent, and France, where it fell by 77 per cent.

Both those countries now have death rates than the United Kingdom, where infant mortality is above 16 deaths in 1,000 live births. For Japan, it is 11; for France, 13.

For the healthiest life it is best to live in southern England and take up a non-manual job.

Standardized mortality ratios for men in Scotland, the North and North-west in 1975 were all more than 10 per cent above average, whereas East Anglia, the South-east and South-west had rates more than 6 per cent below average.

Social class appears to be an important factor influencing the age and cause of death.

Unskilled manual workers are much more likely to die of pneumonia, bronchitis and

cancer of the lung than professionals are. Even death from heart disease, commonly considered a special risk for men executives, is more frequent among unskilled men, and middle-class men are likely to live longer than their working-class counterparts.

The commonest causes of death have changed in the past decade. Between 1968 and 1975 deaths of men from heart disease, diabetes and pneumonia went up, whereas deaths from strokes and bronchitis went down.

By far the largest increase in death among women was from lung cancer, the rate of death going up 31 per cent, probably because of an increased number of women smoking.

Accidents and violence were the commonest causes of death among men in the 15-24 age group, but not for young women.

The cost of drugs prescribed by family doctors was more than the cost of the doctors themselves in 1975, the figures show. Payments to doctors accounted for about 30 per cent of the cost of family prescriber services, whereas payments to pharmacists for drugs came to about 42 per cent. In 1955 the costs were more or less equal.

The proportion of women on the contraceptive pill rose from 19 per cent to 30 per cent between 1970 and 1975. A much larger proportion of the recently married used it than those married 20 years ago: 60 per cent compared with 29 per cent.

The number of men suffering from sexually transmitted diseases rose from 92,000 in 1961 to 185,000 in 1976, and alcoholism admissions rose from about 8,000 in 1967 to about 13,500 in 1975, the

Many old people unaware of fuel aid

By a Staff Reporter

Many of the oldest pensioners are unaware that they may be eligible for a supplementary heating allowance, despite their vulnerability to hypothermia, a survey by Age Concern, published today, suggests.

More than half the pensioners interviewed aged 81 and over were unaware that heating assistance was available, compared with 36 per cent of the 71 to 80 age group and 23 per cent of those aged between 65 and 70.

As well as pointing out "significant improvements" among pensioners about the usefulness of the allowance, two thirds receive the lowest rate, now 80p, a larger proportion of professionals and managerial men gave up smoking in 1976 than those in other groups; a quarter of them were former regular smokers, compared with 20 per cent in semi-skilled work and 14 per cent in unskilled.

Concluded

A statistical profile of Britain's regional tribes

By Philip Howard

The average Scot, if such a cromulent statistical creature can be said to exist, is less likely to own a motor car, but correspondingly more likely to be owned by the same fellow citizen in other parts of the United Kingdom.

If you live in East Anglia you are less likely to see yourself than the rest of us, but make up for it by being more likely to have central heating in your home.

Statistical regional profiles of the diverse and enduring tribes that call themselves British are published today by the Central Statistical Office. The 149 tables, as dense as

tropical jungle with percentages and averages, conceal some interesting regional differences.

For example, the average Northern tribes less than 74 miles) each week than any other average Briton. To make up for it, he spends the highest proportion (5.9 per cent) of household expenditure on alcohol.

The average inhabitant of Yorkshire and Humberside travels a high proportion of miles by bus; devotes a high proportion of his travelling to holidays and other such joyrides; and eats more fish than the rest of us. The Central Statistical Office says he has a high consumption of fish,

which sounds a bit offensive. If you live in the east Midlands you are statistically more likely to suffer or commit the offence of violence against the person than elsewhere in England. The South-east has the highest marriage rate as well as the highest proportion of recorded robberies, thefts, and offences of handling stolen goods, fraud and forgery.

The average inhabitant of the South-west is less likely to go abroad for his holidays, and least likely to leave school without a qualification. If you live in west Midlands you are less likely to die of heart disease than average creatures in other parts of the United

Kingdom, but you eat far more bacon and ham than the rest of us.

There are some fascinating regional differences in eating habits. Wales has the highest average weekly expenditure a person on butter, and the lowest on coffee. Scotland has the highest spending on bread, and the lowest on fresh green vegetables. The North spends more than other regions on eggs and tea. Yorkshire and Humberside spend most on fish. The South-east and East Anglia spend more than other regions on fresh green vegetables and processed fruit.

In several different surveys of earnings and income, the

South-east always shows the highest income figures, except for male manual workers, where the North is always top.

That is a recent development. Ten years ago six regions had

higher average earnings than the North.

This arrived anatomy of the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland considered as 11 separate limbs does not give a rounded profile of each region, but it contains some useful and extraordinary facts for planners and businesses whose operations need good regional knowledge.

CSO Regional Statistics No. 13, 1977 (Stationery Office, £5.50).

Man cleared of having knife for protection

A man who argued through his lawyer that he was justified in carrying a weapon for protection in a street with a high risk of street attacks was cleared at Marylebone Magistrates' Court, London.

James David, who admitted that one of his reasons for carrying a knife was self-defence in Harlesden, London, was cleared of having an offensive weapon.

Mr David, aged 24, a factory worker, of Elm View Road, Wembley Park, formerly a Harlesden resident, had been found with a blunt sailor's knife.

He was fined £50 with £24 costs and banned from driving for 14 months for drinking and driving.

Prisons and the Prisoner (Stationery Office, £5.25).

Liberals propose Scots legal reforms

From Ronald Fauz

Edinburgh

The Law Reform Group of the Scottish Liberal Party proposes radical reforms to the Scottish legal system. In evidence to the Royal Commission on Legal Services in Scotland it suggests the abolition of the Court of Session except for appeal cases and removal of all custody cases to children's hearings.

In addition it recommends abolition of the Faculty of Advocates, provision of legal aid before all tribunals and career training with a promotion system for judges. The emphasis, it says, should be on uniform sentences. The "indefensible" monopoly by solicitors of conveyancing should be abolished.

The group proposes a new Department of Justice to oversee the administration of the courts and prosecutions. It is widely critical of the present arrangements for conducting

criminal prosecutions and particularly of the division of responsibility between the Secretary of State for Scotland and the Lord Advocate.

Mr David T. Marcus, Scottish Liberal spokesman on legal affairs and chairman of the group, introduced the report in Edinburgh yesterday and said: "The nub of our argument is that access to the courts in particular and the legal system in general is becoming more difficult at the very time when every citizen is subject to more and more laws and rules."

The Liberals are dissatisfied with present legal arrangements for three reasons:

1. Cost of litigation is so high that the rich and those of the legally aided with low contributions can afford to sue or defend. The courts are denied to most individuals.

2. Parliamentary checks on the executive are declining and citizens are more at risk dealing with ineffective legal remedies with the vastly increased bureaucracy of

the Crown and all sorts of public authorities.

3. In all sorts of issues involving the welfare state the citizen receives a poor service from a legal profession neither trained nor used to deal with disputes over social security or the National Health Service.

The group says: "As part of a broad reform of the structure of appellate jurisdiction the House of Lords should, in Scottish cases suitable, be given the power to disallow legislation in the same way as the House of Lords in Edinburgh." The group wishes to eliminate the monopoly of the Faculty of Advocates to appear in higher courts in Scotland.

It believes, however, that the basic method of legal aid services should be founded on the private practitioner, backed by more government money, for a big extension of the Citizens' Advice Bureaux services, which should form a first tier. It also wants more subsidies for law clinics to set up practices in areas of multiple deprivation.

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Newspaper is criticized for not keeping its promise

Postmen to keep an undertaking to show someone an article of a personal nature before it was published in the *Daily Mail* has resulted in a complaint to the Press Council being upheld.

The complaint was made by Mrs Barbara Kirby, of Cwm Cwrt, Betwys-y-Coed, chairman of the Snowdonia National Park Society. Before the interview Anne Batt promised to send her a copy of the article before publication, she said.

The article, commented on a book written by Mrs Kirby's first husband, Thomas Firbank, entitled *I bought a mountain*, had been cleared of having an affair with his mountain and quit,

with the result that for 37 years 3,000 wild acres had been managed virtually single-handed by the Dresden shepherd he left behind.

Mrs Kirby complained that she had reluctantly agreed to the article being published because it was a considerable part of the work of the Snowdonia National Park Society. Before the interview Anne Batt promised to send her a copy of the article before publication, she said.

The article was published without the promise being honoured.

Mrs Kirby later received a letter of apology from Miss Batt

saying she had no idea the article was about to appear. I recall promising you a "groat".

she said.

Mrs Kirby told the council that the article gave the wrong impression of her life and the farm. It caused her embarrassment when she received letters from unknown people who imagined she had been wilting broken-hearted in the mountains for 30 years, instead of which she had been happily married for most of that time. Her shepherd was also concerned that his dedicated work with the sheep was ignored and the

impression given that she had been alone. She had made clear that some of her remarks were not for publication.

The council's adjudication was:

The undertaking to send the copy of the article before publication was not kept and the complaint against the *Daily Mail* is upheld. As a result of the failure to honour the undertaking the article included items of a highly personal nature which the complainant found offensive, although an apology was made to the newspaper.

The article was to be sympathetic, other facts were not included which the complainant thought should have been.

No Welsh speaker

A public inquiry due to open

on January 10 into Gwynedd

County Council's proposal to

demolish part of the two

Cromlech boulders at Llanberis

Pass has been postponed

because the Welsh Office

does not supply a Welsh-speaking

inspector.

Man injured by battery radio

A man suffered eye injuries yesterday when a radio set blew up while he was examining it in a Brighton secondhand shop.

Its batteries, because of faulty wiring, received a charge while it was plugged in, although turned off.

The radio, known as Bambino

Runners, are black, measure 8in by 8in and are made in Hongkong.

Plastic ball inserted near brain cures eye paralysis

By Our Health Services

Correspondent

A Cambridgeshire bricklayer, aged 33, has had a balloon, rather smaller than a mistletoe berry, implanted at the base of his brain. The operation is probably the first of its kind in Britain. The technique has been used in Russia and in France.

The operation was performed at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, by Dr Desmond Hawkins, a consultant radiologist, who learnt it from Pro-

Replacement of board of film censors advocated

The British Board of Film Censors should be replaced with a panel of representatives from local authorities and critics, the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, to

WEST EUROPE

French MPs break up for holidays aware an era may be ending

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, Dec 21

There was an end-of-school atmosphere at the National Assembly where the last day of the parliamentary session ended at midnight. The holiday mood, which already gripped the deputies and made it a tough task for the Government to get the necessary quorum to rush Bills through at the last minute, was tinged with a distinct mood of melancholia.

Many deputies knew, or feared, they would not return next April after the elections, and others felt instinctively that, whatever the outcome at the polls, when the new Parliament meets things would never be the same as before, either for themselves or for the country.

The Fifth Republic will be 20 years old next year. Although at the time when President Pompidou succeeded General de Gaulle, and even more when M. Giscard d'Estaing was elected three and a half years ago, it was widely said already that the sixth had been formed by stealth, there is this time a haunting impression of the end of an era.

This impression is so much stronger now because with few exceptions over the last twenty 150 years, 20 years has been the average span of successive French regimes. What is certain is that, party politics apart, the country's desire for change is indisputable.

At all events, President Giscard d'Estaing felt that the close of the fifth Parliament of the Fifth Republic—the only one to run its full five-year course—deserved a more ceremonial close.

At a dinner at the Elysee

Teachers start worse off than semi-skilled

Diocesan 'border war' waged in southern Italy

52 priests oppose Vatican decree on transfer of four parishes

From Peter Nichols
Rome, Dec 21

The Vatican is today making light of reports about a border war in southern Italy involving four parishes and two dioceses which straddle the regional frontier between the regions of Molise and the Abruzzi.

It is yet another demonstration of the sectarian character of French politics, which corrupts even the atmosphere of a social occasion hosted by the head of state, the Communists had unanimously decided to decline the invitation, on the ground that it was a purely electoral operation.

The Socialists had been left free by their party managers to do as they wished. Three of them stayed away, but two of them came, as did one left-wing Radical.

The cause of the ruction is a decree issued by the Vatican to the President of the Molise diocese of Trivento and adding them to that of Sulmona. Three of the parishes are in Castel di Sangro and one in Alfreda.

The object of the change, according to the Sacred Congregation for the Bishops, was to serve the convenience of the faithful of the four parishes who have much better communications with Sulmona than with Trivento. The four parishes are in the Abruzzi region, as is Sulmona, while Trivento is in Molise.

Cardinal Baggio, prefect of the Sacred Congregation for the Bishops, received a delegation of priests and laymen from the area yesterday. The meeting was said to have been "tranquill and quiet".

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But this is one of the points

which has upset the residents. Signor Aldo Santucci, the Christian Democrat mayor of Castel di Sangro, says that apart from the question of ecclesiastical convenience, the citizens of his town feel they have more ties across the border with their Molise neighbours than with the Abruzzi region to which they officially belong.

He has written to the Pope on the matter, but he admits that there is disagreement on the issue both among priests and lay people and some favour the change.

The leader of the opposition to the decree, Don Alfonso Ceroni, the parish of San Giovanni Battista at Castel di Sangro, is calling for a binding dismemberment of the Trivento diocese. The opposition also alleges that the Bishop of Sulmona, Mgr Francesco Amadio, has given himself a bad name locally by once calling in the carabinieri to protect a new parish priest saying Mass from people protesting against the removal of his predecessor.

In March Mgr Amadio met the Bishop of Trivento, Mgr Ezio d'Antonio, and it is understood that they agreed on the cession of the four parishes. Last month Mgr d'Antonio was appointed Bishop of Camerino and a prelate from Pescara, Mgr Antonio Valentini, was named as his successor.

The attitude of the more turbulent clergy shocked some sections of local opinion. Signor Santucci said that certain young priests in the high Molise were unwilling to show respect for the hierarchy. "We cannot", he concluded, "declare war on the Pope".

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The leader of the opposition to the decree, Don Alfonso Ceroni, the parish of San Giovanni Battista at Castel di Sangro, is calling for a binding dismemberment of the Trivento diocese. The opposition also alleges that the Bishop of Sulmona, Mgr Francesco Amadio, has given himself a bad name locally by once calling in the carabinieri to protect a new parish priest saying Mass from people protesting against the removal of his predecessor.

In March Mgr Amadio met the Bishop of Trivento, Mgr Ezio d'Antonio, and it is understood that they agreed on the cession of the four parishes. Last month Mgr d'Antonio was appointed Bishop of Camerino and a prelate from Pescara, Mgr Antonio Valentini, was named as his successor.

The attitude of the more turbulent clergy shocked some sections of local opinion. Signor Santucci said that certain young priests in the high Molise were unwilling to show respect for the hierarchy. "We cannot", he concluded, "declare war on the Pope".

Cardinal Baggio is due to go on Boxing Day to Pescara to consecrate Mgr Valentini as Bishop of Trivento.

But this is one of the points

which has upset the residents. Signor Aldo Santucci, the Christian Democrat mayor of Castel di Sangro, says that apart from the question of ecclesiastical convenience, the citizens of his town feel they have more ties across the border with their Molise neighbours than with the Abruzzi region to which they officially belong.

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OVERSEAS

Appeal to main religions of world for joint effort to remove causes of international terrorism

From Mario Modiano

Athens, Dec 21

Metropolitan Meliton of Chedea, the senior bishop of the Orthodox Ecumenical Patriarchate, has urged the world's main religions to join forces in an endeavour to combat the causes of international terrorism and anarchist violence.

He told an Athens congregation on Sunday: "I have proposed to three recognized Christian spiritual leaders—one Orthodox, one Roman Catholic and one Protestant—to join me and three spiritual leaders from the Islamic, Jewish and Buddhist faiths, in order to create the first nucleus of a centre, a sort of interreligious mission, that would offer a way out of the vicious circle of violence and counter-violence."

Metropolitan Meliton disclosed his plan in the course of a sermon at the Cathedral of Athens. He was returning to Athens after visiting the Pope in Rome on behalf of Demetrios I, the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, to dis-

cuss the latest proposals for Christian unity.

"The easy way out", he said, "is to put the blame and the curse on the terrorists, the anarchists and the hijackers. And the most practical means of confronting violence is counter-violence. But is this the solution?"

There was criminal violence and political violence, he noted. Both exploited a mass of young boys and girls who were "our own victims because we failed to equip them with ideals, whether Christian or humanitarian. We must accept our part of the responsibility".

The 14,000 infants slain by Herod could be called hostages against the advent of Jesus. Yet, Herod was a terrorist, not an anarchist. This, in fact, was an instance of the same sort of power which created the vicious circle of violence and counter-violence.

The Bishop said: "The anarchist children, those who support the criminals of the sinister forces, or those with a

particular political objective, simply seek a joy in their lives that our Sunday schools denied them, that contemporary technology and our consumer society still deny them. They find solace in the joy of destruction, the Neronian joy of destruction, a vicious joy, not one of courage but of disguised cowardice."

He asserted that today's anarchist youth, however, were free from lying. "They do not lie", he said. "They do not pretend they are what they are until death. Let us, please, pay attention. For the anarchists are not common people, they are a kind of neo-martyrs for us, who, as a result of our negligence, we never gave them and delivered them to hell."

The Bishop appealed to all the anarchists, all the terrorists, all the hijackers, to change the world to agree in a Christmas truce and to renounce all their hostilities "in the name of the weak threatened by Herod in Bethlehem".



Life in ruins: Women in the Iranian village of Bab-Tanq, at the epicentre of the earthquake which struck the south-east of the

country on Tuesday, contemplate the rubble which was once their homes. The death toll so far has reached 545.

Russians concede rights point

From Dessa Trevisan

Tbilisi, Dec 21

Diplomats at the 35-nation delegations review conference on European security, which has been in session for 11 weeks, began a three-week rest today. Just before they left, Mr Vorontsov, the chief Soviet delegate, accused the United States of trying to turn the conference into a propaganda forum against his country.

He made the criticism after East and West agreed on a compromise which entitles Western delegates to continue discussions on human rights violations when the conference resumes in mid-January.

Human rights are the crucial issue in the dispute about whether the debate on the implementation of the 1975 Helsinki Agreement should be terminated now or allowed to continue.

The Soviet Union had insisted on stopping the debate so that drafting committees preparing concluding documents could get over to complete their task.

The compromise looks an important point for the West. The Russians have clearly backed down and Mr Vorontsov's blarney against the United States was a demonstration that this kind of blarney has not gone soft.

Mr Vorontsov said the Americans were deliberately ignoring other aspects of European defence under the pretext that the Belgrade meeting was concerned solely with human rights.

The West, for its part, conceded that any further discussions about human rights violations would be conducted in plenary meetings.

Western concern and insistence on this point had been influenced by the case of Mr Nelson Shultz, the dissident who was arrested nine months ago and may be facing charges of treason. He was a member of a group in the Soviet Union monitoring the implementation of the Helsinki accord.

Mr Pretty adds that the compromise looks an important point for the West. The Russians have clearly backed down and Mr Vorontsov's blarney against the United States was a demonstration that this kind of blarney has not gone soft. Mr Vorontsov said the Americans were deliberately ignoring other aspects of European defence under the pretext that the Belgrade meeting was concerned solely with human rights.

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SPORT

Cricket

Sarfraz walks out of Test team

From John Woodcock
Cricket Correspondent
Lahore, Dec. 21

Having lost, in one fell swoop, five of their leading players—Asif, Mushtaq, Zaheer, Majid and Iman—to Mr Facker, Pakistan are now threatened with the defection of another, Sarfraz Nawaz, who left here last night saying that he was going to London and would not be coming back at all, rate during the present Test series between Pakistan and England. The reasons Sarfraz gave were partly financial—he claims that the Pakistani board owe him for his flight from England—and partly personal, a sum of compensation having been paid him in view of his views as Pakistan's vice-captain.

As the best of their faster bowlers Pakistan can ill afford to lose the services of Sarfraz. He took four for 68 in England's one innings in the first Test, which was the best analysis, statistically anyway, of anyone in the team. He is a bold experimenter and hostility, as well as a reputation for being a mettlesome character.

In the current issue of the Pakistan Cricketer, he makes some stirring comments. Pakistan's batsmen in the West Indies series this year, where even the best of them, Iman, were far from the pace of the West Indian bowlers'! In a letter written yesterday to the president of the Board of Control for Cricket in Pakistan he said his thoughts as vice-captain had been "expressed in a way... unprecedented in the history of cricket". As captain as often as not fail to consult their deputies and rate just as an exaggeration as something else.

Although in most countries a cricketer walking out on the Test team would be unlikely to be considered for selection again, it is thought here that public opinion may force a rethink. The stand between Sarfraz and the board is a way of life.

The failure of the Board of Control for Cricket in Pakistan (BCCP) to guarantee fees to their Test players in the event of injury or illness suffered either in training or the current series itself was given yesterday by Sarfraz Nawaz as the main reason for walking out of the Pakistan camp. Sarfraz, speaking during the flight from Karachi to London, said: "If the BCCP want me for the second or third Tests, they can get in touch with my representative, the former Test cricketer, Afzal Gul, or me."

Sarfraz will continue his training in London. "I'm sad and very unhappy about this situation," he said. "But if something good should come out I would love to play again for my country. Sarfraz is a very potential loss to the home side. Sadig Mohammad, of Gloucestershire, may also withdraw.

Mildura, Dec. 21.—A fighting 57 by Iqbal Khan, a World XI batsman, put his team in a strong position to close the first day of the County Cup match against an Australian XI here today.

A. P. Khan (7), W. Prior (37), & Australian XI—Reuter.



Thomson hits the winning run—a four off Redi gives Australia victory.

Mann of the century but not of the match

Perth, Dec. 21.—An excellent century by Tony Mann, playing in only his second Test, provided the backbone for Australia's thrilling two-wicket victory over India on the final day of the second Test here today.

Australia are now 2-0 up in the five-match series, a tribute to the captain, Bobby Simpson, and the young bowlers who brought them into Test cricket after the defection of Greg Chappell and company to Kerry Facker.

Simpson, whose marathon first innings of 176 proved the way for his team's win, played another of his masterly strokes on the final day, sharing a fifth wicket partnership of 100 with Tooley. He was voted man-of-the-match, but must have had his heart in his mouth as Australia were 100 runs short of the winning target.

Australia began the day at 25 with one, the Indian captain, and the back of the middle order. After their charges of victory were off, their tailing and destructive left-arm spin, Sergeant's run of poor form continued when he was dropped up behind the wicket off Muralidhar Lal. Mann was joined by Ogilvie and they added a door, but valuable, 139 for the third wicket.

Mann dominated the partnership and eventually fell with the score at 172, having made 105 in 184 minutes. The Indian tail then fell down, with Redi smacked by Redi for a wild drive and was leg bowled to the Indian captain.

This left the fast bowlers Clark and Thomson to collect the remaining runs. They took five singles and a two, together with a leg bye, before Thomson put the crowd out of their misery with a boundary.

Redi finished with five for 105. The Indians have been dismasted by his fast bowlers Chandersekhar and Venkataraghavan who failed to take a wicket between them.

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Redi finished with five for 105. The Indians have been dismasted by his fast bowlers Chandersekhar and Venkataraghavan who failed to take a wicket between them.

India's second Test here today was a tribute to Simpson and his team, but must have had his heart in his mouth as Australia were 100 runs short of the winning target.

Australia began the day at 25 with one, the Indian captain, and the back of the middle order. After their charges of victory were off, their tailing and destructive left-arm spin, Sergeant's run of poor form continued when he was dropped up behind the wicket off Muralidhar Lal. Mann was joined by Ogilvie and they added a door, but valuable, 139 for the third wicket.

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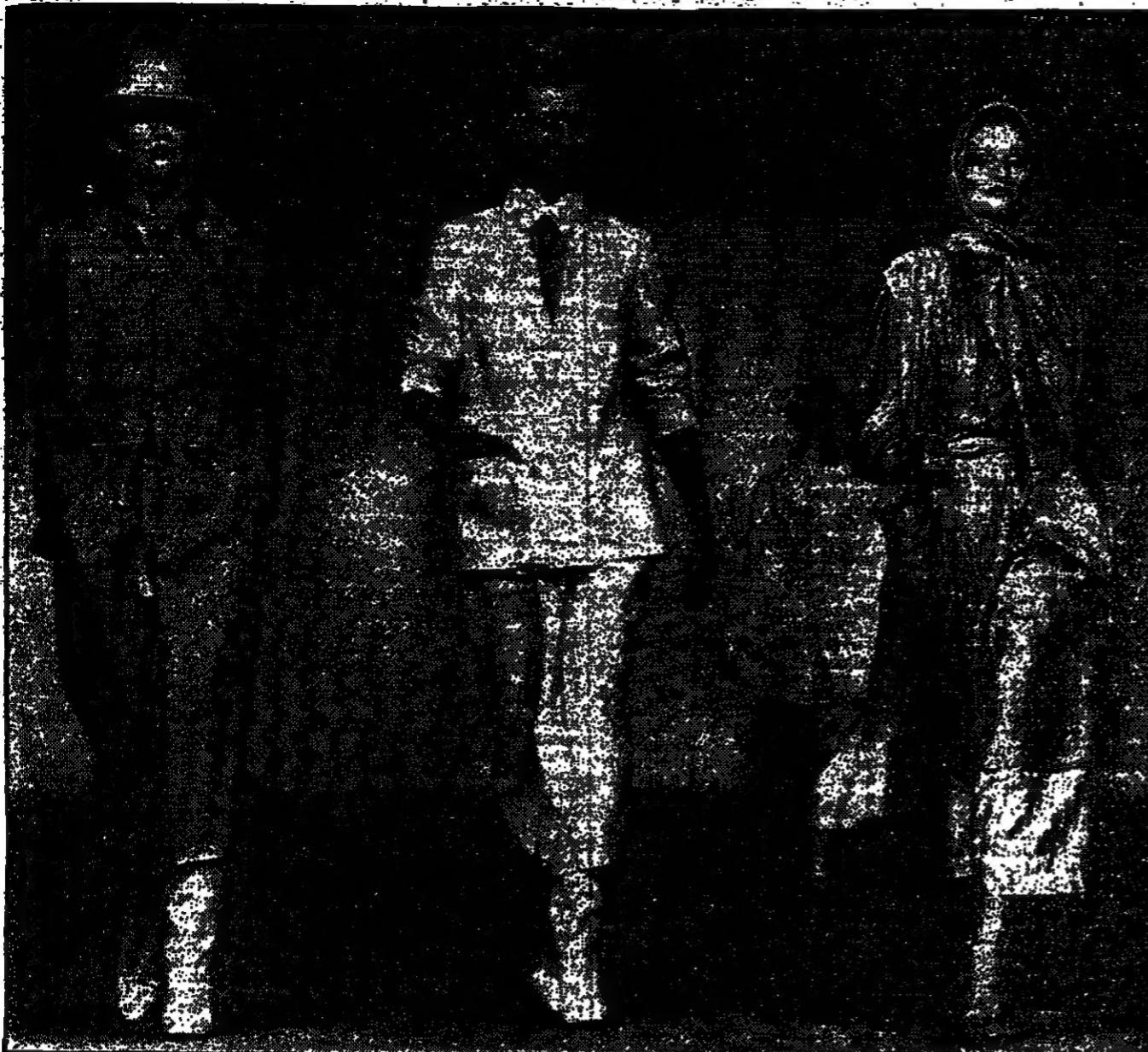
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Fashion

by Prudence Glynn

The Elle spring-summer collection for 1978, to be found from
Elle Journeys at Elle Milano, 20 Sloane Street, Elle at 32 New Bond Street and Elle
shops in Manchester, Reigate and Brighton. Photographs: Harry Kerr



Above left and centre: The massive tweed of last autumn translated into gowns for spring.

Above right: Pale green silk mince and satin, pink satin and gilt. Anti-couture.

Below: Multi-coloured stripes in full flowing shapes.



What They want Us to look like

For those who have injected the maxim attributed to the Duchess of Windsor, which is that you cannot be either too thin or too rich, I have bad news. Of course, the idea of the ideal has been revisited (legally) for quite some time in our jolly democratic state, but until now the former concept has joined (though I suppose it should be "lost") great weight. Slimness has been all. No chic clothes above size 14, round and birdlike frames at the "prow", all so depressing for the ever-extending group of beautiful, maturely youthful women of a certain build who, now, if I read the signs aright, will be the commanding figures in the next fashionable fling.

I base this not just on personal observation and reading of the gossip columns, where all the most exotic romances seem to be slotted into the over-40 bracket (are we in for an Edwardian pre-PIL renaissance of The Matried Woman), has joining the EEC induced the Englishmen their preference shared by the Latins and the Gauls for the more sophisticated partner in place of the dreary Deb? No, my assumption comes from the designs on which I have recently adjudicated.

As irony here, the first group of designs, which I, now, entries for the Royal Society of Arts Bourses, were of a higher standard than ever before. I particularly congratulate Portsmouth College of Art and The London School of Fashion, but all the shapes and all the ideas, and all the drawings were on large paper. A few days later, I looked at the entries for the admirable Evans Cruise award in the same venue, and judged that three-quarters of the entries for the earlier contest had been included in the later.

Briefly, so the young who will dictate our lifestyle—see us as larger, taller, broader, not the "dolby-butt" but the mother-of-herbs image. We shall be clad in layers of clothing (well, that is already evident), but we shall also be clad in layers of fat. Fascinating for the socially

conscious fashion editor. As you all know, I regard dress as the expression of political, economic and cultural climates. So we are in for: (a) a food crisis (not just a bakers' strike) in which the support of a large woman will be seen to reflect glamourously on her provider; (b) an energy crisis, in which layers of clothing will have to be superseded by layers of fat too; (c) a crisis of fashion for newly affluent men who can now admit to the decadence of (look at the commanding sizes of Ennace and Hilde on BBC television—Susan Fleetwood is not just L. P. Hartley's ideal figure now).

Then of course there is the suggestion of a new matricarchy. When everything is awful, women will survive because they know best. It is just a coincidence that of the few remaining monarchies so many are headed up by women? Or, that I, though a passionate feminist, who mostly prefers the company of men, should find myself so complete in my admiration for Queen Elizabeth II?

But what is the New Woman to be called? Not a matron, not Ms, not by title, so "auntie", though not as bad as being called, sir, by the well-mannered young, my menfolk tell me. Not as a "mummy", fairly sorted me out from the girls. As for "granny", well, the elegant Baroness Birk has written the only possible account of how to cope with that crisis of nomenclature. Faced with her first grandchild, naturally much welcomed but also a nudge of the winged chariot, Lady Birk says that she leaped over the cradle and murmured, "Call me 'Aima'".

A shorter piece today, but that I am just recovering from the cultural shock of a bouquet of flowers from Selbyshire, which consisted of manne, chrysanthemums, pale blue irises, large white carnations, daisies, pink carnations (a colour which can only safely be left to Bernard Nevill)—and half a box of chocolates. The box does not call for fat, as it usually does, but this unfatly combination was splayed into a fanshape in a

nic-pot. Now, everybody knows that you never send flowers to a private residence arranged other than three-dimensionally—not all of us can afford Queen Anne-style television sets tucked in the corner of the lounge. My "auntie" Birk happens to be decorated in taste of blonde birchwood and cotton, but, since nothing Wright by nature is to my mind ugly, though she is, quite so, confident about her, I ditched the greenery, and crammed the flowers into a tall white pot. Unchecked by florist's hand, they are, of course, lovely.

But the nub of this story is not as self-indulgent as the foregoing might suggest. I am, always on the side of the customer and I reckon most customers to be like myself, short on time, money and temper and wanting above all to shop in as few places as possible; for the maximum number of goods which measure up to one's particular taste.

The retailer can achieve this in two ways. Either he can offer an enormous variety and excellent service, as does Harrods, or he can offer a much narrower range, in an unswerving level taste and style and value, as do "Heals", Habitat, Conran or the John Lewis partnership.

This is the age of discrimination in shopping, as it always is when the economic climate is sharp, so I just leave the thought in the mind of one of the greatest retailers in this country, Sir Charles Clore, as he departs the throne to concentrate on his already formidable charitable activities. How can you have the beautiful and, daintily, clad Miss Gertie Segridge, to which even I, not Miss Gertie Segridge, am this moment bound for my new, round, swaddled, and she has fat department in London—happy Christmas, Mr.—the Dame of the day, who suggests in place of the non-aristocratic grey mullet or sea, hair, was "deciding", and I only cannot thank you personally, because Selbyshire's Press Office has been engaged on two and a half hours and the switchboard is for the busy to take a message? Why the inconsistency, given the prices?

Contracts and Tenders

TREASURY DEPARTMENT ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT OIL FIELDS YACIMIENTOS PETROLIFEROS FISCALES SOCIEDAD DEL ESTADO REPUBLICA DE ARGENTINA

INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC TENDER NUMBER 05-1/77

Buying of Four New Tank Vessels, Unused, to Transport Crude Oil

DEADWEIGHT: 30.000 TO 35.000 TONNES APPROXIMATELY

DRAUGHT MOULDED DESIGN: 36 FEET PLUS-MINUS 2 FEET.

BREADTH MOULDED MAXIMUM: 30 METRES

LENGTH OVERALL, MAXIMUM: 215 METRES

Tender will be opened on January 18, 1978, at 14.30 p.m. local time, in our headquarters, sited in Avenue Roque Saenz Peña 777 (13th Floor), Buenos Aires, Argentina and simultaneously in our commercial and technical office in Houston (Texas) Richmond Building, Suite 710, 3616 Richmond Avenue—Houston, Texas (U.S.A.) at 11.30 a.m. local time.

Cost of Tender Conditions: US\$2,000.

All questions and the selling must be made in the above mentioned in working dates and hours.

Offers for this tender will be received up to January 17, 1978 at 3.30 p.m. Houston Time.

LEGAL NOTICES

REPUBLICA ARGENTINA REPUBLICA DEL PARAGUAY ENTIDAD BINACIONAL YACYRETA

PREQUALIFICATIONS OF CONTRACTORS AND CONSORTIA OF CONTRACTORS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE YACYRETA HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT

The Entidad Binacional Yacyreta, constituted in accordance with Article 111 of the treaty signed on December 3, 1973, by the Argentine Republic and the Republic of Paraguay, will receive prequalification information from contractors and consortia of contractors for the construction of the Yacyreta Hydroelectric Project, located on the Parana River at the Yacyreta falls. The main features of the project are:

INSTALLED CAPACITY:

1st Stage: 20 units 2,700 MW

2nd Stage: 10 additional units 1,350 MW

4,050 MW

RATED NET HEAD:

300 M

Volume of maximum generation and fill 12,500,000 M3

Estimated gross volume: 13,000,000 M3

Total length of fill dam: 70 KM

This invitation for prequalification is public and international and open to contractors and consortia of contractors who are highly specialized in the construction of large hydroelectric projects. The Entidad Binacional Yacyreta, Dirección Ejecutiva, office at Calle Junín 1060, 10th Floor, 1100, Buenos Aires, Argentina, will receive the prequalification documents from the following address: Entidad Binacional Yacyreta, Dirección Ejecutiva, office at Calle Junín 1060, 10th Floor, 1100, Buenos Aires, Argentina, from 8.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. (from 3 to 7 p.m., at a fee of 150,000 peso hundred fifty thousand Argentine pesos for the first copy and 100,000 peso hundred thousand Argentine pesos for each additional copy) or at the following address: Entidad Binacional Yacyreta, Dirección Ejecutiva, office at Calle Junín 1060, 10th Floor, 1100, Buenos Aires, Argentina, from 8.00 a.m. to 12 noon and from 3.30 to 6.30 p.m., 37,500 (thirty-seven thousand five hundred) guaranies for the first copy and 37,500 (thirty-seven thousand five hundred) guaranies for each additional copy. Contractors and consortia of contractors who have a registered address in Buenos Aires, Argentine Republic, for the purpose of this prequalification.

Applications for prequalification will be received at the address of the office of the Entidad Binacional Yacyreta, Dirección Ejecutiva, office at Calle Junín 1060, 10th Floor, 1100, Buenos Aires, Argentina, from 8.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. (from 3 to 7 p.m., at a fee of 150,000 peso hundred fifty thousand Argentine pesos for the first copy and 100,000 peso hundred thousand Argentine pesos for each additional copy) or at the following address: Entidad Binacional Yacyreta, Dirección Ejecutiva, office at Calle Junín 1060, 10th Floor, 1100, Buenos Aires, Argentina, from 8.00 a.m. to 12 noon and from 3.30 to 6.30 p.m., 37,500 (thirty-seven thousand five hundred) guaranies for the first copy and 37,500 (thirty-seven thousand five hundred) guaranies for each additional copy. The prequalification documents will be opened in the presence of the applicants, and a record of the prequalification will be prepared.

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For further information, contact the following address: Entidad Binacional

NEW BOOKS

Finding the balance

Nations and States
An inquiry into the origins of nations and the politics of nationalism
By Hugh Seton-Watson
(Methuen, £12)

This is as difficult a book to review as it must have been to write. Professor Seton-Watson has set up the broadest possible canvas for himself. In seeking to understand the nature of nationalism and its impact upon states and international society, he traces its origins on a historical, region-by-region (and almost country-by-country) basis, and then reexamines it on the basis of concepts. Thus he has four chapters on Europe, on what he calls the "Old Continuous Nations", on the movements for national unity, on the Europe-based empires and the new nations which emerged from them, and on the European empires. Then follow sections on the Muslim empires of West, Asia and North Africa; the Chinese, Indian and other empires of East Asia; and on the colonial empires and new nations of Africa. Finally, there are sections on the impact of race on nationalism, on "diaspora nations", on nationalism and class warfare, and on the interaction between nationalism and various world-wide ideological movements. Seton-Watson provides notes, bibliographies and two indices, altogether making up over 550 pages, and his book is priced accordingly.

No one will dispute the importance of the subject. Nationalism, regarded as self-determination, has been labelled as a progressive force since the days of the Enlightenment. In the nineteenth

century, most intelligent and humane-minded people believed that such a comprehensive approach is liable to drift into the writing of a "potted history of the world". Seton-Watson does not altogether avoid the temptation. We have short, and usually admirable, summaries of a vast range of historical developments—such as the rise and fall of the British Empire in India. But, despite the length of the book, there is never enough space for treatment in depth and for the isolation of the significant details which provide the key to an understanding of a particular historical phenomenon. Endless summarizing makes for dull reading too. Seton-Watson is at his best when dealing with Eastern and Central Europe, the Balkans, and Turkey. There, his profound knowledge and love of his subject make the summarizing both illuminating and easy to read.

Personally, I wish the professor had left himself a bit more often, and made it clear what really worries him about the place of nationalism in the contemporary scene. After all, it is full of paradoxes, clamouring for exposure. The chief of them, surely, is that the Soviet Union, which has led the anti-imperialist pack in our time, is now the last survivor of the great 19th-century empires. China's position is also paradoxical, for there is the little matter of Tibet, not dealt with here. In Russia's case, the desire to divert attention from her own territorial properties and treatment of subject races has admirably supported for extreme nationalism, especially in Africa, which is now at the root of much of the fighting and misery there. It also creates the dilemmas in which Russia

Paul Johnson

commits herself to two rival nationalisms, as in the Ogaden crisis, and then chooses between them on a hasty basis of crude Realpolitik. Russia's irresponsibility might not matter quite so much were it not for the prevailing nationalist ideology of the United Nations, which reflects the interests of, or supposed of, the former colonial territories. The UN puns the length of the book, there is never enough space for treatment in depth and for the isolation of the significant details which provide the key to an understanding of a particular historical phenomenon. Endless summarizing makes for dull reading too. Seton-Watson is at his best when dealing with Eastern and Central Europe, the Balkans, and Turkey. There, his profound knowledge and love of his subject make the summarizing both illuminating and easy to read.

Seton-Watson, however, has little to say about the UN. He writes at length on race, but here again he does not answer what to me is an increasingly insistent question: at what point does nationalism become racism? After all, it is nationalism, a form of racial pride which most, if only by inference, consider a racism element? The UN has officially pronounced, for what it is worth, that Zionism is a form of racism. But Zionism is only one type of nationalism, what Seton-Watson calls "diaspora nationalism" (also practised by, for instance, the Chinese). Why is Jewish nationalism immoral and Arab nationalism legitimate and worthy? There is, of course, no answer to this question.

It is possible, in fact, frighteningly easy, to push any nationalism to the point of racism, or to the point at which it becomes a menace to others. As Seton-Watson says, "there must be a balance between national cultures and inter-state cooperation" but no one has yet devised machinery for striking it.

Hot property

In Pursuit of Coleridge
By Kathleen Coburn
(Bodley Head, £4.50)

It has not been the best of years for the Oxford University Press. A month or two ago Elizabeth Murray revealed parsimony and compromise in the manner of the *Oxford English Dictionary*, and now Kathleen Coburn shows the Press turning its back on what has proved to be one of the most moving and majestic contributions to literary scholarship of the century: the text of and commentary on the Notebooks of Samuel Taylor Coleridge.

When the youthful Miss Coburn ("a very young, very starry-eyed, very ebullient bore") she calls herself at one point) went down to Kenneth Sisam of the Clarendon Press in 1936 with a proposal to edit the notebooks from the original copies, "she threw back his head and laughed. 'How did you, pray, a young chick like me, manage to get that? Didn't you know that England is full of old grumpy beards who've been waiting to get their hands on that for decades? Tell me how?'"

It is clear he was not going to take her very seriously. After all, was not Mr Stephen Porter planning with the Press a four-volume edition of transcripts of the notebooks (perhaps with the help of G. Odoreida), and who could believe in the scholarly potential of "a colonial and all that—and, if I may say so, not meaning to be rude, a young woman too"? Thus, primarily at the advice of E. K. Chambers ("who was writing his notoriously young-headed biography of Coleridge at that time"), the Delegates rejected Miss Coburn's proposal on financial grounds—and such a rejection it seems is absolute and eternal. The project faltered, the war supervened—but Miss Coburn, who was tenacious as well as starry-eyed (and who, incidentally, is never a bore), held her purpose, and once the war was over she set about reviving plans for publication. In 1957, the first "volume" one book of the original Coleridge's one book of "contemporary" appeared, and Miss Coburn established a deeply affectionate bond with Lord and Lady Coleridge, so that her work on the notebooks became part of a natural pattern rather than an intrusion. (Miss Coburn, the partner of the Baronet to sell the notebooks to the Pilgrim Trust for the British Museum—a transaction from which that institution emerges with little credit, as it does even less when its Manuscript Department refused to buy further Coleridge notebooks owned by another branch of the family.) From its coverage of such dealings as these, and from its rewarding account of editing Coleridge during the years when he emerged as a hot property for an academic research, Miss Coburn's book may seem to be aimed at an audience of Coleridgeans. But the candour and approachableness of her "discussions" on matters of her own life is matched by her warmth in describing the daily events of a life ruled by an over-riding passion. Her accounts of her life in Canada—especially on her summer island—and her descriptions of travel, whether to Ottery St Mary or to Mount Aegea, are given with an ingenuous delight. What an enviable life—and what a roster of achievement for a colonial woman fallen among English greybeards.



Then Sisam's amused but annoyed "How?" and are the fulcrum to Miss Coburn's book. Lord Coleridge was a "Brutus, dry, caustic" man who, you got to know him. (He remarks one of a notebook remark by STC himself: "A kindhearted man obliged to give a refusal, or the like, that will give great pain, finds relief in doing it roughly and fiercely.") His wife was always kind and full of encouragement. These two people were not "scholarly" or literary," and their close guardianship of the Coleridge notebooks had been, as much as anything, through a decent wish to keep their domestic privacy.

Through her very youth, and her female sex, and her colonialness—and, indeed, through the knowledge of beef cattle—Kathleen Coburn established first a friendship and then a deeply affectionate bond with Lord and Lady Coleridge, so that her work on the notebooks became part of a natural pattern rather than an intrusion. (Miss Coburn, the partner of the Baronet to sell the notebooks to the Pilgrim Trust for the British Museum—a transaction from which that institution emerges with little credit, as it does even less when its Manuscript Department refused to buy further Coleridge notebooks owned by another branch of the family.) From its coverage of such dealings as these, and from its rewarding account of editing Coleridge during the years when he emerged as a hot property for an academic research, Miss Coburn's book may seem to be aimed at an audience of Coleridgeans. But the candour and approachableness of her "discussions" on matters of her own life is matched by her warmth in describing the daily events of a life ruled by an over-riding passion. Her accounts of her life in Canada—especially on her summer island—and her descriptions of travel, whether to Ottery St Mary or to Mount Aegea, are given with an ingenuous delight. What an enviable life—and what a roster of achievement for a colonial woman fallen among English greybeards.

Brian Alderson

The next Book Page will appear in The Times on January 5.

Impressive pessimist

Selected Letters of William Faulkner
Edited by Joseph Blotner
(Scribner, £10)

In the dear dead days when Penguin were self-confident enough to forge fancy book-jackets, William Faulkner was the king of those pointed to the art as financial disaster areas, royalty, worries, Hollywood work, and, twice, twice for quick cash. It is hard not to start chipping, once you've got the point.

"Sex and death; the front and the back door of the world." This is a chapter opening in his first novel, *Soldier's Pay*. His fiction seldom failed to deliver on those. Which is perhaps why, eventually, the film makers beat a path to his door—despite the fog of his extraordinary style. In his later novels especially, he often sounds (one critic said) "as if he were speaking from the depths of a great chasm set before an open fire with glass in hand and friends around him, all comfortable and a little sleepy, oblivious of time and the necessity for hurry. His voice droves on, lazily and discursively, as he elaborates on familiar twice-told tales."

Best that, old Hemingway! Respect, your elders, young Maler!

Hemingway and Maler both crop up in this handsome volume of Faulkner letters: the former in a rather tedious dispute about courage; the latter over Maler's claim that, in the American South, "The Negro had his sexual supremacy and the white had his white supremacy." On which Faulkner comments:

I have heard this idea expressed several times during the past 20 years, though not before by a man. The others were ladies, northern or middle western ladies, usually around 40 or 50 years of age. I don't know when a psychiatrist would find this.

A psychiatrist would, no doubt, have found Faulkner's own idea of a scathing reply preposterous, too. But as these letters show, he was a man who usually played his life like poker, not like a confessional. He wanted (he said) to be known by his book alone. Even those (he claimed) he would have preferred to get out unprinted by a signature, to live their own life.

There are echoes of Currey, Eliot and Action Bell here: an element of romantic pose. (For Howard and Heathcote, read Popeye, who were like "two kinds of soft black rubber" rather than for the Standard convolutions of his more elaborate tales.)

Sanctuary was, in fact, conceived solely to make money. Faulkner had his secrets. But he didn't put them into his letters.

The editor of a writer's letters has a problem with someone who signed so strongly

for glory and lost all for profit? But I suspect he'll live for Sanctuary and the monstrous Popeye, who were like "two kinds of soft black rubber" rather than for the Standard convolutions of his more elaborate tales.)

Sanctuary was, in fact, conceived solely to make money.

Faulkner had his secrets. But he didn't put them into his letters.

Paul Barker

It was said that the corporation was responsible for the loss of the vessel, and the court heard that the vessel had been sold under the Merchant Shipping Act. The Colocotronis family said that the ship still owned all the ships and were entitled to the charter hire.

It had pleaded. There was well over \$1m in joint account in respect of those proceedings.

It said the operating company of the vessel were to be calculated and paid out of the joint account.

Colocotronis said that the judge had no jurisdiction to make the order which he had made before the determination of the

Law Report December 21 1977

Queen's Bench Division

Local productivity schemes not against miners' union rules

National Union of Mineworkers (Yorkshire Area) and Others v. Gormley and Others

Before Mr Justice Watkins

His Lordship described as a hollow application without foundation in law or equity the application by the Yorkshire, South Wales and Kent areas of the National Union of Mineworkers for interlocutory injunctions to restrain the union's national executive committee from setting up area incentive schemes for mineworkers with the object of increasing productivity.

The three areas, the plaintiffs, sought, inter alia, injunctions against the defendants, Mr Joseph Gormley and Mr Lawrence Daly, union president and secretary respectively (sued on their own behalf and on behalf of the members of the national executive committee), the union and the union's South Derbyshire area, to restrain them from negotiating or concluding incentive schemes.

Mr Stuart Shields, QC, and Mr Stephen Sedley for the plaintiffs;

Mr Conrad Dohs, QC, Mr T. R. A. Morrison and Mr Michael Baker for the defendants.

MR JUSTICE WATKINS said that the National Union of Mineworkers was a federal trade union, composed of 24 constituent members, which were either areas or associations of workmen. Each area or association was a trade union in its own right. The three plaintiffs were such a constituent member of the union.

The plaintiffs applied for interlocutory injunctions in order to bring to an abrupt standstill the activities of constituent members relating to incentive schemes pending the result of the trial of the action.

It is clear he was not going to take her very seriously. After all, was not Mr Stephen Porter planning with the Press a four-volume edition of transcripts of the notebooks (perhaps with the help of G. Odoreida), and who could believe in the scholarly potential of "a colonial and all that—and, if I may say so, not meaning to be rude, a young woman too"? Thus, primarily at the advice of E. K. Chambers ("who was writing his notoriously young-headed biography of Coleridge at that time") the Delegates rejected Miss Coburn's proposal on financial grounds—and such a rejection it seems is absolute and eternal. The project faltered, the war supervened—but Miss Coburn, who was tenacious as well as starry-eyed (and who, incidentally, is never a bore), held her purpose, and once the war was over she set about reviving plans for publication. In 1957, the first "volume" one book of the original Coleridge's one book of "contemporary" appeared, and Miss Coburn established a deeply affectionate bond with Lord and Lady Coleridge, so that her work on the notebooks became part of a natural pattern rather than an intrusion. (Miss Coburn, the partner of the Baronet to sell the notebooks to the Pilgrim Trust for the British Museum—a transaction from which that institution emerges with little credit, as it does even less when its Manuscript Department refused to buy further Coleridge notebooks owned by another branch of the family.) From its coverage of such dealings as these, and from its rewarding account of editing Coleridge during the years when he emerged as a hot property for an academic research, Miss Coburn's book may seem to be aimed at an audience of Coleridgeans. But the candour and approachableness of her "discussions" on matters of her own life is matched by her warmth in describing the daily events of a life ruled by an over-riding passion. Her accounts of her life in Canada—especially on her summer island—and her descriptions of travel, whether to Ottery St Mary or to Mount Aegea, are given with an ingenuous delight. What an enviable life—and what a roster of achievement for a colonial woman fallen among English greybeards.

Through her very youth, and her female sex, and her colonialness—and, indeed, through the knowledge of beef cattle—Kathleen Coburn established first a friendship and then a deeply affectionate bond with Lord and Lady Coleridge, so that her work on the notebooks became part of a natural pattern rather than an intrusion. (Miss Coburn, the partner of the Baronet to sell the notebooks to the Pilgrim Trust for the British Museum—a transaction from which that institution emerges with little credit, as it does even less when its Manuscript Department refused to buy further Coleridge notebooks owned by another branch of the family.) From its coverage of such dealings as these, and from its rewarding account of editing Coleridge during the years when he emerged as a hot property for an academic research, Miss Coburn's book may seem to be aimed at an audience of Coleridgeans. But the candour and approachableness of her "discussions" on matters of her own life is matched by her warmth in describing the daily events of a life ruled by an over-riding passion. Her accounts of her life in Canada—especially on her summer island—and her descriptions of travel, whether to Ottery St Mary or to Mount Aegea, are given with an ingenuous delight. What an enviable life—and what a roster of achievement for a colonial woman fallen among English greybeards.

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infectious, appealing, foot-stomping
and heart-thumping *Irrele* *Irrele*
Irrele *Irrele* *Irrele*

I was absolutely caught up in it. I carried along by it, it captivated me. I loved it. It was like a roller coaster ride. It was the audience dancing in the aisles.

Elvis Presley

Malcolm Muggeridge reports on the latest position in the Butch-Veg dialogue

The butchers' gala banquet, and how the vegetarians swallowed it whole

For long vegetarians and meat-eaters regarded one another with rigid hostility; between Covent Garden (in its old location) and Smithfield there was either no communication at all or a slanging-match.

No annual banquet of the Worshipful Company of Butchers was complete without some facetious references to non-eaters, and by the same token, whenever vegetarians got together, there were bound to be cracks directed against meat-eaters, usually attributed to Bernard Shaw—as when, at some public dinner, he was heard asking his neighbour whether he found the corpse he had on his plate to be tasteless.

Sterile and tedious disputes were carried on, and a state of permanent confrontation prevailed, one side denouncing the other. But that has changed, by virtue of his masterful and digestive equipment, was clearly by nature a vegetarian, the other pointing out that the most sacred symbol involved the concept of meat 'as' an essential dietary item. Who, it was asked, could hope to be uplifted by a sacrificial cabbage—or a meatless Last Supper?

The first breakthrough came about by accident—or so it appeared at the time. A distinguished visitor from a country heavily engaged in exporting meat to the United Kingdom, was invited to dine with the Worshipful Company of Butchers. He turned out, rather surprisingly, to be a vegetarian, and special food was duly prepared for him, tastefully dished up in such a way as to be, as far as possible, indistinguishable from what was being served to everyone else.

For instance, there was some blanched vegetable broth which looked exactly like the turtle soup that would inevitably ensue. Owing to confusion among the waiters, in the event the broth went to someone else, and the distinguished guest downed, without any apparent signs of distress, a good helping of the authentic turtle soup.

As may be imagined, the incident led to much badinage and laughter, but one of the younger master-butchers present struck a more serious note. Was there not, he asked, a moral in this accidental happening? If so, conscientious and consequential, a vegetarian as their honoured guest could manage to swallow quite calmly and comfortably a soup-plateful of the Worshipful Company's very special turtle soup on the assumption that it was vegetable broth, did not this suggest that the gap between vegetarians and carnivores was not as wide and impassable as had hitherto seemed to be the case?

It was at this point that what has come to be known colloquially as the Butch-Veg Dialogue began. Subsequently, secret meetings took place in country houses, and other places of retreat between care fully selected meat-eaters and vegetarians "with a view to exploring their differences and, hopefully, formulating their points of agreement."

Perhaps significantly, the leading spirits in this enterprise tended to be lapsed vegetarians of the more extreme kind, who had formerly eschewed even eggs and milk products, and now fancied not just an *omelette frites herbes* or Welsh rarebit, but also, when the occasion offered, a pork chop or *filet mignon*, the rarer the better.

Initial discussions were opened by the young master-butcher who had first drawn attention to the deeper significance of the turtle soup, mistaken for vegetable broth. Let us, he said, first find some point of agreement: only then will it be possible for us to embark upon an authentic and serviceable dialogue.

So, he put forward the proposition: *Men needs food as meat*, one about which they might all agree—as, indeed, they did. The question then arose, he went on: *What sort of food?*, and here differences of view would inevitably arise.

There was a large robust smile, like elephantine, like tiny energetic creature, like flea, that liked nothing better than the Worshipful Company of Butchers might serve up, more tender and pleasant to the taste, he would doubtless have



Homo sapiens, on the other hand, as in so many other matters, was ambivalent, and could subsist, equally, on a meat and a vegetarian diet. In dire straits, he had even been known to turn cannibal, and alternatively, like the Babylonian King Nebuchadnezzar, go raven on all fours and eat grass, presumably developing a capacity to chew the cud like any cow.

In these circumstances, was there really any occasion for the two sides to get worked up over the precise 'dietary' arrangements that might be made? Why not leave that to individuals to decide, and concentrate on the essential consideration—nourishment?

The point was well taken. Then, one of the lapsed vegetarians brought up the case of Gandhi, a famous and honoured name in orthodox vegetarian circles. It was of course true, he said, that the Mahatma had maintained a strict vegetarian diet, and had continued in adherence to the end of his life. Interestingly, when his wife was dangerously ill, he had refused to allow consomme to be dripped into her mouth, but, even though, according to her doctor, it was desperately needed.

At the same time, in his autobiography, Gandhi recorded how, as a young student in London, he had decided to eat meat, hoping thereby to acquire the physical vigour of the meat-eating farmers who in those days ruled over India. Unfortunately, the more he ate, said his wife, the more he had been born over meat which was fresh blood; human, if possible, animal if the human variety happened not to be available.

persisted in his intention, and became a moderate, sensible meat-eater for the rest of his life.

With a few dissentients, they agreed to shave the more contentious matters for future consideration, and to join together in the worldwide fight against under-nourishment, agreeing for increased food production by all available methods and in all available forms. On this inspiring note, the proceedings ended.

Thereupon, the dialogue developed in all sorts of interesting ways. At times, though, there seemed to be a danger of a deadlock. For instance, butchers and factory-farmers presented particular difficulties. To the more sentimental type of vegetarian, such methods of stimulating meat production were abhorrent, and put them in a mood to quote indigently Blake's lines about how a robin redbreast in a cage pur High Heaven in a cage.

At one point there were cries of "Gandhi" and "gulag" when one of the butchers expected upon the security and home comforts enjoyed under brotherhouse or factory farm conditions. Did the birds or the beasts, he asked rhetorically, show any signs of wanting to get out into the harsh competitive world of the farmyard or the meadow, where unemployment was rife and available resources were quite insufficient to satisfy demand?

On the contrary, they exhibited the utmost reluctance to venture out from the warmth and light with which benevolent farmers provided them.

It was true, of course, that when he ate meat, his wife had been born over meat which was the Worshipful Company of Butchers might serve up, more tender and pleasant to the taste, he would doubtless have

fruit and nuts their vegetarian friends are so hearty.

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guests, the Worshipful Company had arranged for all the dishes to look like flowers or fruit or vegetables. Thus, there was a mighty joint shaped to resemble an enormous cabbage, a side of beef like an inflated marrow, spare ribs like cucumbers, sausages hanging like bananas, and kidneys bunches like grapes.

So well had the chief done his work that the impression created was more that of a harvest festival than of a butchers' banquet.

Only one unfortunate incident marred the harmony of the proceedings. It happened that an aged vegetarian had by some mischance received an invitation to the dinner, and duly turned up, bearded and dressed in a kind of Norfolk jacket and knickerbockers in a style much favoured among simple-lifers at the turn of the century.

When he discovered, as the butchers proceeded, that despite appearances to the contrary, all the dishes were animal rather than vegetable, he let out a strangled cry of protest.

"You're all eating meat!"

The Rev Stephen Salzburger, an accomplished and resourceful anchor-man. Nowadays, he remarks with a smile, to take an occasional slice of bacon or fried fillet of plaice with his mashed banana, but is none the worse vegetarian for that!

The big gala event was a dinner offered by the Worshipful Company of Butchers to their distinguished vegetarian friends in their historic banqueting hall. It was a full-dress occasion, white tie and tails; the Worshipful Company's splendid silver shone on the table; vintage champagne and brandy were served and toasts were drunk alternately to vegetarian and non-vegetarian celebrities—on the vegetarian side, Gandhi and Bernard Shaw, and on the Worshipful Company's, Henry Fielding, who wrote "On the roast beef of England and *A Field* Lang Syne". Before the guests finally dispersed, it was agreed that in due course another banquet would be arranged, this time in one of London's vegetarian restaurants, at which the procedure would be reversed, with every item on the menu vegetarian in content but a meat dish in appearance.

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AN UNBALANCED CRITICISM

Herr Adelbert Weinstein, Defence Correspondent of the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* described Britain, in an article this week, as, the weakest link in the Western alliance. It was "almost grotesque", he said, that the British should "strive to play the 'big number two' in Nato, while contributing so little. Even after allowing for some journalistic hyperbole, that is a charge which seems manifestly unjust and needs answering.

We have ourselves criticized Britain's defence effort during the past few years; both in terms of the diminished defence budget and the directions in which resources have been spent. Manpower is stretched to the limit and sometimes beyond, in all three services, and our capacity for reinforcement in any long or even middling-length war is dangerously low. The introduction of new equipment has been systematically delayed, and in some cases cancelled, with the inevitable result that existing systems are often outdated or in constant need of repair. There have too been cases where bad decisions have led to mediocre performances, and the tale of the L-60 engine in the Chieftain tank is in itself a sorry one.

If we in Britain are conscious of these deficiencies it is not surprising that our allies are too. Nor is it surprising that the Germans are the most concerned. Any apparent falling-off in the level of Britain's contribution gives rise to fears that they, as

our most important European partners, will be asked to bear a larger share of the burden. In other directions too, notably the EEC, they have felt themselves to be unduly put upon. Like the "ugly Americans" who, not so long ago, wandered in bewilderment round an ungrateful Europe, they have found their patience wearing thin. To this extent Herr Weinstein's protest reflects a general frustration more than anything else.

But he protests too much. To say that "it is alarming how little England does for Nato" is to forget that "we still do quite a lot. We still for instance contribute to the BAOR's commitment to Nato's Northern flank. BAOR has its problems, but it remains a well-motivated professional force and the maintenance of the 1st British Corps on foreign soil is no small burden on Britain's resources, despite German offer of agreements. Britain does after all still devote a larger share of its GNP to defence than does West Germany; however overworked that argument may now sound.

Britain's contribution to Nato is arguably more balanced than that of any other European member, perhaps too balanced in that we try to provide a little of everything and thus make the red line look too thin in any one place. It is salutary to see ourselves as others see us; and it would be foolish to reject criticism when it comes. But we have a right to protest when that criticism seems unbalanced and unfair.

SMALL STEPS IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

The modest relaxations in exchange controls announced yesterday are just about the least the Government could get away with, though that does not, of course, make them any the less welcome. Britain, while not the only EEC country to behave in this way, has consistently dragged its feet on its obligations to liberalize its controls over outward capital investment into other Community countries. This has been fully understandable in the context of our chronic balance of payments deficit. But now that the balance of payments has turned round dramatically, though one could make significant qualifications about the quality of that turnaround, the Government is still treading extremely gingerly. They might well have preferred to have done nothing at all had pressure from Brussels for at least some first steps to be taken.

The easing of the very tight existing regulations over the availability of official currency for direct investment in other

EEC countries can hardly be described as particularly generous. But then the EEC is in this area, when it comes to overseas investment, and the alleged "export of jobs" that the TUC has been most concerned about.

The concessions in our portfolio investment are little more generous. But there has at least been the welcome spin-off that the abolition of the 25 per cent surrender rule on overseas portfolio investments has for administrative reasons been extended beyond EEC securities and is to apply on a global basis. The surrender has in effect acted as an additional tax on investors buying overseas securities and greatly impaired the effectiveness of our overseas portfolio investment by making it penal for investors to switch from one stock to another in attempts to improve portfolio performance. This is a good move.

The major question now is whether the Government should contemplate further relaxations of the controls over outward investment in the months ahead. A great deal clearly depends on

the trend in the balance of payments this year and the amount of foreign currency the Government feels it prudent to put away for the substantial overseas debt repayments that fall due over the next few years.

Some of these debts could be rolled forward but there must be a strong case for repaying a large part of them and making sure that our net as opposed to our gross, reserve position is put on a stronger footing.

Even so, it still seems likely that the balance of payments could accommodate an increase in the amount of official exchange rates available for overseas investment at least direct investment in industrial and commercial assets. What is likely to determine the situation one way or the other will be the strength of sterling. If sterling remains reasonably strong, further relaxations of direct investment may be expected; they are certainly desirable.

APARTHEID IN AUSTRALIA?

The views of the Minister-elect for Veterans Affairs in Australia upon South African racial policies were well known to the press and those who consort with him, and his ill-advised gaffe over apartheid, can only prompt surprise that Mr Fraser nominated Senator Shell for office. Mr Fraser, however, still has to find jobs for members of the Country Party, the dwindling other leg of the traditional Liberal-CP coalition. It is drooping at the polls and Mr Fraser's big majority makes him increasingly independent of it. But the Senator also represents Queensland, which is firmly in the grip of right-wing men and right-wing measures. Mr Fraser needs to work with the states, and has to oblige— even appease— Mr Bjelke-Petersen, the Queensland premier, who is by far the most difficult.

The Senator returns to obscurity. But his point about extending apartheid to the Australian aborigines—if they want it, he carefully adds— deserves consideration. The racial balance in Australia and South Africa are of course totally unlike. South African apartheid is intended to restrict citizenship of the blacks, who constitute over 70 per cent of

the population, to only 13 per cent of the land, in order to prevent them becoming a threat to the white minority. By contrast in Australia there are only 50,000 full-blooded aborigines and 100,000 aborigines of mixed blood in a population of 14 million whites. They have reserves larger in area than the United Kingdom, and one of Mr Whitlam's achievements was to give them full land rights and self-rule in these, as well as a pledge to make the Northern Territory itself a state, in which aborigines would have the preponderant vote and voice if they chose to, use them.

Australia has made belated amends for its past inhuman treatment of the aboriginal people. But it is almost too late. The remaining tribal aborigines may preserve some of their traditional life style in the reserves, but those in the cities mostly live in appalling conditions, and efforts to rehabilitate them have only succeeded in patches and, partially, and Queensland's record is, by far the worst. The South African solution, which would be to force them all into the reserves, would, besides being inhuman, violate Australia's basic liberties—which South Africans of all races may

would bring its journalists' wages anywhere near those on comparable newspapers in the Nordic East.

They have even had the gall to offer, as part of the latest proposals, a one off payment of £5 to all journalists if the relaunched papers achieve 91 per cent of their previous circulation, to be followed by a further £5 for each further percentage point up to 110 per cent. That is the kind of waste of £5. Westminster Press places the loyalty of the people who work for it. No one has revealed whether the £5 would be repayable if the circulation falls back again.

There is still room for more talk and it is to be hoped that the firm may yet put its money where its mouth is.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL DUGGAN
Father of the Joint Chapels
John Chappells Strike Headquarters
3 Victoria Road,
Darlington,
County Durham
December 16.

Strike by journalists

From Mr Michael Duggan
Sir, Your view, expressed once again in your leading article of December 15, that a closed shop for journalists could pose a threat to press freedom, is one that a reasonable man might conceivably hold.

However, the headline you put on it—"Winning a battle for press freedom"—implies an interpretation of the motives of Westminster Press management on which grave doubts must be cast by the events of the past week.

Throughout the Darlington dispute, Westminster Press has maintained that if the journalists wanted a closed shop to improve wages and conditions, then it was willing to do so. It may yet put its money where its mouth is.

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Everest without oxygen

From Mr Nigel Sutwell
Sir, Your report on Reinhold Messner's adventurous plan to climb Everest without oxygen (December 10) mentions Colonel Norton's achievement in reaching 28,125 feet in 1924. But many of your readers will remember, Eric Shipton's 1933 climb when he and Frank Smythe reached nearly 28,000 feet on the north face, without oxygen.

Many of us recall the curious (and perhaps unfair) manner in which he was deprived of the leadership of his expedition simply because of his dislike of the fashionable dependence on oxygen.

Eric Shipton, who sadly died in March this year, would be excited by the Messner-Höller plan, and vindicated if it should be successful.

Yours sincerely,
NIGEL SUTWELL
Director of Art Galleries,
Temple Newsam House,
Leeds
December 16.

Yours sincerely,
ROBERT ROWE
Director of Art Galleries,
Temple Newsam House,
Leeds
December 16.

Peace talks in the Middle East

From Mr Sidney Brickett

Sir,

It is difficult to understand why in your leader "Mr Begin makes his move" (December 19) you write that "negotiations between Israel and Egypt are now running like a fast train, towards an unpredictable destination". The "destination" is predictable enough. It is a complete peace between Israel and her neighbour, Jordan, instead of joining in a joint European programme for the procurement of the American AWACS. Britain's decision to do so was largely prompted by the reluctance of European powers, including

France and

Germany.

The engine has depended heavily upon British expertise.

Moreover it borders upon the absurd to criticise Britain, as he does, for going it alone in the production of an airborne early warning aircraft instead of joining in a joint European programme for the procurement of the American AWACS. Britain's decision to do so was largely prompted by the reluctance of European powers, including

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John Foord
CHARTERED SURVEYORS

THE TIMES BUSINESS NEWS

Opec failure to agree on new prices results in standstill for time being

From Roger Wielwys
Cairo, Dec 21

The world's leading oil exporting countries failed to agree on new prices for crude oil next year and in most countries 1977 price levels could continue for at least another six months.

Mr Ali Jaidah, secretary general of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) said after the third and final ministerial session, that "member countries were unable to reach a common consensus" on oil prices.

The next opportunity to discuss prices will be at the meeting scheduled for Jan 15 but there is a possibility of a special session being called within the first three months of next year.

At the time of the decision to freeze oil prices for one year, Opec said that "member countries were unable to reach a common consensus" on oil prices.

The next opportunity to discuss prices will be at the meeting scheduled for Jan 15 but there is a possibility of a special session being called within the first three months of next year.

At the time of the decision to freeze oil prices for one year, Opec said that "member countries were unable to reach a common consensus" on oil prices.

Postponing the decision saves the conference from the embarrassment of rejecting outright proposals from Señor Carlos Andres Pérez, the Venezuelan President, for a 5 to 8 per cent price rise in the proceeds of which would be given for one year to help finance some of the Third World debts.

Postponement also leaves the countries that wanted an increase free to adjust their

prices. However, in the current oil glut, most Opec sources said that any member would find it difficult to increase its prices.

Mr Jaidah, asked if the conference had sought assurances from the oil hawks led by Iraq, Algeria and Libya, that they would not increase prices unofficially, said: "We have an agreement not to disagree."

He added that no time limit had been set on the price freeze. The conference decided to meet again, the 1977 prices based on Arabian market crude at \$12.70 (about £6.75) a barrel would continue.

The conference decision must be seen as a rebuff for the initiative on Third World aid put forward by President Pérez. By his proposal in the official opening speech he put considerable pressure on the delegates which was followed by a round of intensive lobbying.

The meeting had reaffirmed full support, including financial contributions, towards an early establishment of the integrated programme for commodities.

To complete the lack of agreement at the conference, no agreement was reached on the relative value of heavy crude oil in the Gulf states.

A steering committee was formed to meet in Stockholm meeting in July to tackle this imbalance and it has now been decided that it will meet again early next year, in yet another attempt to reach a revised price structure.

Power price report sent to Minister

By Derek Harris

First report by the new Price Commission on an investigation of a price increase during which prices can be frozen and an increase delayed for 12 months, went yesterday to Mr Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection.

It was an investigation into higher charges by the Central Electricity Generating Board for bulk supply tariffs to the area electricity boards in England and Wales. The increases were caused by higher fuel costs for power generation which are automatically passed to the consumer.

The Commission has been looking at CGE's costings and the sort of prices it faces from its suppliers, including the National Coal Board. The coal board, like British Steel, comes directly under Community regulations and escapes direct surveillance by Mr Hattersley's price regulation machinery.

The Commission has also been investigating proposed increases in quarterly domestic electricity tariffs by the electricity boards because of the fuel cost adjustments.

Mr Hattersley expects the report, the area board rates at the end of this month. He then has a month in which to decide whether to act on any recommendations made by the Commission after an investigation.

The area boards have already been allowed to put through fuel increases originally proposed.

meeting of the organization.

Failing to take action on the Venezuelan proposals presents Opec with the problem of ensuring that this is not interpreted as a snub for the Third World.

Mr Jaidah said member countries would consult among themselves on the President's proposals with a view to making a new approach towards strengthening the solidarity among Opec and Third World governments in establishing a new economic order.

The conference was extremely disappointed with the lack of progress on establishing the common fund for commodities despite the real commitment made by the developed countries during the North-South dialogue in Paris he said.

The meeting had reaffirmed full support, including financial contributions, towards an early establishment of the integrated programme for commodities.

To complete the lack of agreement at the conference, no agreement was reached on the relative value of heavy crude oil in the Gulf states.

A steering committee was formed to meet in Stockholm meeting in July to tackle this imbalance and it has now been decided that it will meet again early next year, in yet another attempt to reach a revised price structure.

City hails abolition of surrender rule

By Ray Maughan

The success of the City's long campaign for the abolition of the 25 per cent surrender rule on the dollar premium was scarcely reflected in this pre-Christmas trading on the stock market yesterday.

Leading shares recovered from a dull start but mostly ended narrowly mixed with the FT Index up by only 0.4 to 480.0. The dollar premium's effective rate climbed from 38.5 pence to 39.37 pence.

The four major United Kingdom mining houses came under selling pressure as Consolidated Gold Fields dropped 10p to 161p and Charter Consolidated 4p to 125p. Investors took the view that, while the mining houses had been the cheapest way into gold while the surrender rule existed, investors would now prefer to buy directly into the South African gold mines themselves.

Mr David LaRoy Lewis, chairman of Akray & Smethers, a leading jobbing firm, said yesterday that his company was considering making a book in South African shares. Shortly before its merger with Akray & Lazarus, it was to make in this market because of the poor level of business.

Mr Anthony Lewis, chairman of the jobbing firm of Smith Brothers and Company, London, was not making a book in South African mining shares, a long-term campaigner against the surrender rule. He said: "He was 'narrowly delighted' by abolition, although he found it difficult to assess its immediate impact."

He felt, however, that London's competitive position in international securities markets would be restored.

His views on increased fledgling and switching opportunities were reflected by Mr Philip Sheldrake of the Drayton stable of investment trusts.

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ICI Fibres' profit hope looks nearer £12m loss

By Peter Hill

ICI Fibres' operations are expected to show a loss of between £10m-£15m this year, instead of breaking even, as the company had hoped.

Mr. John Harvey-Jones, main board director responsible for fibre products, said yesterday that losses by the European man-made fibres industry were likely to amount to £500m this year compared with £350m last year. In a note to employees he said this would bring losses back to the same level as in 1975.

ICI had a deficit of £30m on its fibre operations two years ago. Last year it managed to reduce the loss to £1m, but had hoped to break even in the current year. The European industry is suffering from poor demand, overcapacity and imports from low-cost countries.

In four years ICI has reduced its workforce in the United Kingdom and in Europe to 15,000 from 22,000, and several of its less economic production plants have been closed.

The fibres sector, and the textile and clothing industries in Europe are basking in their 'hoped for' return to better market conditions on the renewed Gatt Multi Fibre Arrangement signed on Tuesday and designed to rationalise development of trade between the developed and the less developed countries.

John Earle writes in Rome: A bleak Christmas faces 2,500 workers at the modern man-made fibres plant, jointly owned by Anic and Montefibre, at Orta di S. Pietro, Sardinia. A local trade union official said the works council were told by the management yesterday that December wages and salaries would not be paid.

They were further informed that only five-sixths of the traditional 'thirteen month' paid throughout Italy for Christmas would be available.

BOC Profit Results

BOC International Ltd

Group profit, unaudited for the year to 30 September 1977, was:

| | Year to 30.9.77 | Year to 30.9.76 |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|
| Group sales | £ million | £ million |
| Operating costs | 670.6 | 607.6 |
| Depreciation | 666.1 | 507.7 |
| Group share of associated companies' profits, less losses | 114.5 | 99.5 |
| GROUP TRADING PROFIT | 78.8 | 30.4 |
| Europe | 23.0 | 22.3 |
| Africa | 101.8 | 82.1 |
| Americas | 39.5 | 39.1 |
| Asia | 16.7 | 13.7 |
| Pacific | 12.9 | 22.6 |
| Interest | 4.9 | 4.7 |
| GROUP PROFIT BEFORE TAX | 161.8 | 182.1 |
| Tax | 35.1 | 18.5 |
| Minorities | 47.1 | 32.3 |
| Extraordinary profits, (losses) net, after tax | 39.4 | 27.0 |
| AVAILABLE FOR DISPOSAL | (0.2) | 0.3 |
| Dividends: Preference | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| Ordinary—Interim | 3.4 | 2.8 |
| —proposed final | 5.8 | 4.0 |
| Profit retained | 2.3 | 6.8 |
| Earnings per share (adjusted for Rights Issue) 14.49p | 10.04p | |

Condensed balance sheet as at 30 September 1977. Group capital employed, unaudited, at 30 September 1977 was:

| | At 30.9.77 | At 30.9.76 |
|---|------------|------------|
| Shareholders' funds | £ million | £ million |
| Minority shareholders' interests | 384.5 | 242.9 |
| Deferred taxation and capital grants | 61.7 | 51.5 |
| Net borrowings (loans and overdrafts; net of cash and deposits) | 19.3 | 66.5 |
| and leasing obligations | 153.6 | 161.3 |
| Fixed assets (including leased assets) | 619.1 | 513.8 |
| Associated companies and investments | 401.4 | 332.4 |
| Working capital (excluding overdrafts and short term loans) | 87.3 | 87.3 |
| Profit retained | 120.4 | 84.1 |
| | 619.1 | 513.8 |

- 1) Trading profit for the year to 30 September 1977 has been reduced by extra depreciation of £3.8 million provided in respect of asset revaluations carried out during the financial year.
- 2) Sterling strengthened against other major currencies during the last quarter of the financial year. Group trading profit for the year could have been higher by £750,000 if exchange rates ruling at 30 June 1977 had still applied.
- 3) Deferred taxation has been calculated in accordance with the proposed accounting standard ED19. The result has been to increase shareholders' funds at 30 September 1977 by £46.8 million. On the new basis the tax charge for the year to 30 September 1976 would have been £38.5 million.
- 4) The balance sheet at 30 September 1977 includes obligations of £10.2 million under finance leases and related leased assets of £12.1 million.
- 5) As forecast at the time of the Rights Issue, the Directors recommend a final dividend of 1.75p net per 25p ordinary share (1976: 1.6598p) making a total of 3.135p for the year (1976: 2.6598p). This is equivalent to 4.75p inclusive of tax credit (1976: 4.092p).
- 6) Books close for the final dividend and report and accounts to shareholders 20 February; final dividend payable 3 April; shareholders' meeting 22 March.

Further copies of this report may be obtained from the Secretary, BOC International Ltd, Hammersmith House, London, W6 9DX. Tel. 01-748 2020.

New Leyland Cars panel set up to decide on competitive product line

By Clifford Webb

Another review panel has been set up to study the various organizational options open to Leyland Cars, and to recommend a product line which is competitive and economic.

The panel, seven strong and led by Mr Pat Lowry, the corporate director in charge of personnel and administration, began work just over a week ago. It has been asked to report to Mr Michael Edwards, the new chairman, in two months.

News of the panel's establishment has done nothing to dampen rumours that Leyland may shelby its controversial new Mini project—the ADO 88—to make a more profitable range of medium family saloons. There have been suggestions that the project has already been mothballed pending receipt of Mr Lowry's recommendations.

Leyland denies this. A spokesman said: "No policy decision has been made to stop work on the new Mini. It is going ahead."

Equipment manufacturers, worried about the possible loss of contracts worth many millions of pounds, have not been completely reassured by the decision. They point out that the Mini project is shelved, the state-owned motor group could be involved in substantial penalty payments to them.



Mr. David Andrews: strong advocate of medium-range saloons

The key question of which cars Leyland should build to restore its fortunes has been complicated by the appointment of two further product review teams, both headed by Mr. David Andrews, newly promoted to succeed the departing Mr. Alex Park as an executive vice-chairman.

Mr. Andrews, until recently managing director of Leyland International, is now the 12th (and a strong advocate of LC10, 12 and 13) the new medium saloon.

It is also reportedly reported that a recent clinic—a secret showing to selected motorists—produced adverse reaction to some aspects of the new Mini's appearance; this could lead to changes in some body panels.

An expensive compromise could be a decision to advance VFW's launch date—reported to be 1981—to early 1980. The appearance of two new models within months of each other would place Leyland's engineering facilities under enormous strain. It is already short of production engineers.

It could arguably undertake such a major dual programme by subcontracting a substantial share of the work. This has already been mentioned by management in talks with shareholders of the company's participation machinery.

The latest hour of indecision is again undermining morale in Leyland Cars and feeding the industry's grapevine with wild rumours.

The survey forecasts that new registrations of cars in the United Kingdom next year will rise by 6.5 per cent to 1,420,000, with imports accounting for 50 per cent. Ford is predicted to remain market leader at least until 1980.

Job marketing the news of its problems to the world."

The journal says that if the industry's earlier promise is to be fulfilled 1978 must witness the beginning of solid progress towards solving the fundamental weaknesses.

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Car manufacturers, the report says, is a "hideously complex operation" and its troubles are not the monopoly of Britain's manufacturers. "It is just that Britain currently appears to be doing a more comprehensive

job marketing the news of its problems to the world."

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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

New possibilities for overseas investment

The 25 per cent surrender rule has been a constant thorn in the side of the investment community since it was introduced in 1965. Whatever one may have thought about the desirability of what amounted to an automatic tax on most overseas investment, there was little argument about the deleterious effect the surrender rule was having on the management of overseas portfolios. Every time an investor in a premium stock wished to switch to improve portfolio performance he had to take into consideration the cost of the surrender involved in that switch—a cost on the same kind of scale that was killing off so much private investment in the domestic market.

What, though, are the implications of the abolition of the surrender rule? The widespread view is that it is bound to stimulate investment in overseas stocks. The point of disagreement concerns the scale. The arguments for expecting considerably increased interest in overseas stocks are that there is little risk that the premium itself will be abolished in the foreseeable future.

The arguments against expecting more than a marginal increase in funds headed overseas are the strength of sterling and, more particularly, the fact that many investors may not be prepared to bid the premiums up all that much further in what can often be a very narrow market.

At this stage, then, it is difficult to estimate the likely scale of any diversion of funds away from the domestic equity market. Whether or not any diversion will prove important, moreover, will depend on how much money the Government leaves around for total equity investment after it has creamed off enough to meet its own

DOLLAR PREMIUM per cent

Effective based on spot rates

80



80

40

1976 1977

Wilkinson Match

The American proposal

Meanwhile, those involved in the investment currency market have been half-expecting changes in the regulations for the past six months with abolition of the 25 per cent surrender rule—whereby sellers of investment currency have to sell a quarter at the official exchange rate—an odder or favourite to go.

Being a quintessentially professional market, with the number of dealers down to single figures and the lion's share of turnover stemming from institutional investors, yesterday's abolition then will come as a bolt from the blue with the market arguably having discounted this eventuality long ago.

For all that, however, there will still be some imperfections in the market to be ironed out as private holders of overseas shares taking this opportunity to sell shares at the relative attractions of the United Kingdom and overseas markets and with the South African stockmarket off-limits for many fund managers. Yet yesterday's move also removes the risk that the premium will be phased out entirely, at least in the short-run, which was one of the major reasons for the sharp shakeout in August this year.

Business Diary: Post early? • Two for Monopoly

Eric Varley, the Secretary of State for Industry, has at last been presented with the name of somebody willing to serve as the Post Office board member for finance and corporate planning.

He is Frederick Waterhouse, the 45-year-old chief accountant of the plant protection division of ICI. He will come in at the beginning of February on a three-year secondment.

His predecessor, Maurice Silderfield, quit at the end of last year to become finance director of Ferranti. In April of this year the Post Office's senior director, central planning 56-year-old Charles Beauchamp stepped in as acting board member.

Two things have served to make the Post Office job even less attractive to outsiders than board seats in other nationalized industries.

First, there are the recommendations of this year's Carter committee, which says the Post Office's postal and telecommunications functions should be split up.

Secondly, the Post Office boardroom is from January 1, to be the laboratory in which the Government is to test its notions of industrial democracy.

Seven trade unions and two consumer representatives are to join the board in a two-year experiment. So far, the Post Office unions can agree neither on the nominations nor on the Carter recommendations.

The consumer nominations are likely to be made any day now. There was slightly more enthusiasm for these £1,000 a year part-time directorships than for the full-time ones.

Business Diary understands that there were 1,500 applications

when the jobs were advertised.

The Monopolies and Mergers Commission, which may itself be merged with the Price Commission, gained two new members yesterday, bringing the membership to 27.

They are Tadeusz Rybczynski, the economics adviser at Lazard Brothers, and Kenneth George, professor of economics at University College, Cardiff.

Rybczynski is a governor of the National Institute for Economic and Social Research.

But the commission's line-up of members will go back to the customary 25 later next year because two long-servers will stand down. They are Tibor Barna, the Sussex University economics professor who has been on the commission since 1963; and Basil Yamney, professor of economics at the London School of Economics, who went on the commission in 1966. Both are still busy on commission inquiries.

The commission, which is chaired by the barrister, Godfrey Le Quesne, has always been something of an enigma of legal eagles, and can often take two, to three years to complete an inquiry.

Right-hand, left hand: yesterday was the day that the European Commission decided that it would interfere in the pricing policies of the whisky distillers DCL, a move which the company says will force it to remove its Johnnie Walker Red Label brand from the British market. Yesterday was also the day it was learnt that £2m will be paid out of the EEC regional fund to establish a new whisky blending and bottling plant.



"Continued caution and prosperity"—from someone signing himself IMF."

for John Walker and Sons, a DCL subsidiary, making Red Label.

Venezuela's President Carlos Andres Perez, host to the Opec meeting, believes that Britain's Prime Minister is a conservative capitalist in his dealings with the Third World and that his social democrat colleagues in Europe are even worse.

His suspicions were aroused during a visit to London earlier this year when Callaghan asked Cap, as he is known in Venezuela, why Opec would not let the industrialized countries get richer. According to the Callaghan reckoning, a richer developed world is better equipped to help the poorer nations.

Evidently Callaghan liked

Europe. Democracy must be able to provide international justice, he says.

It is his only consolation to Callaghan, the president describes Chancellor Schmidt of West Germany as even more of a conservative and capitalist.

For the last 22 years, Paul Kolton has been running one or other of America's largest stock exchanges. At the end of this month, however, he leaves the securities business.

Kolton, aged 54, head of the American Stock Exchange, is to become the first independent chairman of the Financial Accounting Standards Advisory Council, which helps formulate decisions to be taken by the Financial Accounting Standards Board.

The chairmanship of the council is traditionally held by the chairman of the standards board, but the nation's accountants now believe it's time to have an independent adviser.

This will be only a part-time job for the active Kolton and he will soon be seen on the boards of many American companies. He is already a director of Standard Brands, the Security Regulation Institute, and the New York Institute of Finance, among others.

I told him that this did not sound like a social democrat speaking. It was what we are told by capitalists in any country," he said after announcing his own plan for helping the Third World reduce indebtedness to the industrial nations.

He was particularly stung by the fact that the conservative government in Sweden has said it will write off \$200m out of the \$180,000m owed by the developing countries, a lead so far not followed by any of the social democrat countries of

Economic notebook

Sterling on the boil again?

The dramatic build-up of pressure on sterling this autumn, which eventually forced the Government to take the lid off the pound in order to save its money targets, was followed by something of an anticlimax.

Those who had passionately argued against the "float" watched with relief as the pound settled down to a remarkably steady trade-weighted value, only about 14 per cent higher than its pre-October 31 pegged rate.

Frogs are now appearing on their faces again. In the past three days there has been a perceptible revival of interest in sterling in the foreign exchange market.

The pound's effective exchange rate index has risen by a further 14 per cent this week. It has strengthened against the "hard currency" Deutsche mark and yen, as well as against the United States dollar and the weaker European currencies.

The exchange control relaxations announced yesterday may do something to alleviate upward pressure on sterling. But there are several reasons for supporting the view that Britain may not end its position on the currency sidelines for much longer.

One reason is the German decision last week to impose curbs on the speculative inflows which have sent the mark soaring by nearly 10 per cent against the dollar in the past three months. Another is the better outlook on the wages front.

The stuffing was knocked out of the pound's initial bounce in November by the miners' rejection of a productivity deal and the fears to which this gave a rise of industrial unrest and a Pay explosion.

Hopes that this pay round will not be too expensive, after all, are now building up in the markets. Confidence has also been improved by the latest set of economic indicators. Inflation is falling fast, and the current account surplus is getting bigger, even if real economic growth remains elusive.

A flood of capital into Britain on top of the expected current account surplus next year would be welcome. The Government's decision to let the pound float free. The signs are though, that it would stand firm.

After all, the "uncapping" was expected to lead to a significant appreciation. The fact of its coming later than expected would be no reason for an official change of heart, unless the appreciation were extremely sharp.

Relaxation of the rules governing direct overseas investment could prompt some companies to switch their excess sterling funds into Europe.

Britain's economic prospects are clearly not as bright as those in West Germany, Japan or Switzerland. Nor is the pound the one-way bet for speculators which it seemed before "uncapping". But the two indicators of most importance to foreign exchange markets—prices and the balance of payments—are set fair for the next six months.

That is usually the limit of the horizons of the currency markets.

Money growth over the next few months will be faster than earlier this year and the sluggish growth of the economy this year, which has tended to bolster financial confidence, will be succeeded by some expansion.

Quite apart, of course, from the economic arguments for or against a higher pound, there is the politician's prediction for a strong currency. The Prime Minister is probably happier when the rate is rising than when it is falling, even if his counterparts in Germany, Japan and Switzerland are not, because the rise in their currencies is not good for the next six months.

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However, barring a sudden explosion in pay, confidence in sterling (shown in a recent survey by Amex bank) to be much greater among foreigners than among the British themselves) is likely to push the pound higher.

With a record level of companies reporting price rises, a constraint on export sales even before the upward float, a consumer boom in the office and evidence that Britain's already strong currency has intensified recently, that is a worrying prospect. It makes it even more important that Britain's cost inflation be beaten—which means more productivity and not too high wage settlements.

Caroline Atkinson

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Rolls-Royce: a juicy liquidation

On February 4, 1971, the inconceivable happened.

Rolls-Royce, the pride of British engineering and advanced technology, collapsed. It brought an effective end to the then Conservative government's lame-duck policy and dealt an unpreceded psychological blow to the business community. The collapse was one of the key factors which destroyed the confidence of the small investor.

A name, which had been a synonym for excellence, which the nation had lauded only three years previously for its exceptional ability in winning a contract to supply RB211 aero-engines to the giant American Lockheed corporation, had proved to be a thing of straw.

Lockheed can never have believed that the British government would let Rolls-Royce go under; but in the end the company went into liquidation. Creditors and shareholders could have been expected to get nothing in return for their supplies and

PROGRESS OF LIQUIDATION

Feb 1971

Rolls-Royce collapses.

Aug 1972

Payment of 15p in unsecured creditors.

Dec. 1972

Sale of shares in BAC for £6.25m.

March 1973

Second payment of 25p to unsecured creditors.

May 1973

Rolls-Royce Motors floated off for £28.4m.

June 1973

Agreement reached with Government at £27.9m for price of aero-engine assets.

Dec. 1973

Creditors and shareholders.

Feb 1974

First payout of 25p to shareholders.

July 1974

Second payout of 10p.

Feb 1975

Third payout of 15p.

Feb 1976

Fourth payout.

Nov 1977

Final payout, nominal value of 6.7p; next payout immediately before winding up.

Total payout to shareholders £1; lowest price 3d; highest 75p.

price 25s.

collapse, because a receiver alone has the power to re-nounce contracts. The government had to take a back route to get what it wanted and in doing so it put creditors at risk.

It was clearly essential to keep work going on the RE211. The government, therefore, agreed to indemnify the receiver against further losses for carrying on work, while Rupert Nicholson himself arranged with Lockheed to waive damages, so there were none of the usual losses on liquidation of work from the day of the collapse.

Nearly £130m has been paid out to unsecured creditors, £5.7m to debenture holders, and £9.9m to preference creditors since the setting up of R&R Realisations in August 1971, in deal with the liquidation of the company.

The liquidation and receiver ship has taken £3.7m in remuneration and costs, but that has been more than covered by the interest received on money realized.

"I have not done any miracles, I have just avoided any bad liquidation losses," says Mr Nicholson, but there is more modesty than is characteristic.

In fact the liquidation has been a tour-de-force which has gone through a number of critical phases, all of which, if they had gone wrong, could have led to early closure of the receiver.

Before negotiations on the aero business really started in earnest, Mr Nicholson explained, "I had to sell off all stock in R&R to R&R Realisations." The government had been unable to nationalise Rolls-Royce and then reneged on the Lockheed contract without breaking the law. That was why it was necessary to let Rolls-Royce be wound up.

BOTH was a big prize which the remaining partners, Vickers and GEC, would have been delighted to control while Hawker Siddeley was winding up in the wings. A team agreement was reached whereby Sir Arnold Wainstock, at GEC, was given the running of the company while a solution acceptable to all parties was reached.

"The critical point," Mr Nicholson explains, "was to get the government to agree to withdraw supplies.

"There was a near go," Mr Nicholson says. "They nearly brought us to a standstill, but I managed to get them

Anglo American Corporation of South Africa, Limited

Gold mining companies in the Orange Free State

ALL COMPANIES ARE INCORPORATED IN THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Mr D. A. Etheredge and Mr D. B. Hoffe discussed the following topics in their chairmen's statements for the year ended 30th September, 1977.

On all the Group mines, working costs have been affected by the increases in cost of consumable stores and electric power where the rates of escalation have outstripped those of labour in general. The mining industry is the largest individual power consumer in the country taking approximately 22 per cent of Escom's production in 1976 and with recent increases in price, power costs have become a significant element in the cost of mining at depth, accounting on average for nearly eight per cent of the working costs of all gold mine members of the Chamber of Mines. From January 1978 to September 1977, increases in the cost of power from Escom have raised the cost of electricity by 60 per cent.

A further increase of 20 per cent is scheduled for the Orange Free State area in January 1978. These increases have been brought about by Escom in order to provide in part for the finance for their proposed expansion programme in view of the fact that the traditional source of capital, foreign loans, is no longer available because of the political climate. It is of great importance that Escom should find some way out of its dilemma as the increases in cost of magnitude have the effect of shortening the lives of the mines.

Working costs during the year have risen appreciably. Total working costs for the Group's Orange Free State mines rose by 20 per cent although on a unit ton milled basis this represents an increase of 11 per cent.

Gold price

In August 1976 it became apparent that speculative over-selling had driven the market price down to an artificially low level and that little account had been taken of the solid industrial demand which existed and then began to emerge clearly at a higher than anticipated level. By early November the price had risen to \$130 and it remained at this level until the middle of February. The apparent equilibrium in the market over this period indicated that the level of industrial demand was strong enough to balance supply. At this time it also became clear that the IMF auctions had become accepted as a normal part of the market, this being particularly so once the auctions had been moved to a monthly basis.

In March the price finally moved above \$140 and movements during the ensuing months were small, again demonstrating an inherent stability in the market. Only in September did the price finally break through \$150 with the return of increased investment demand as a result of the weakening dollar and the continuing fall in Wall Street. For the first time this year, speculators began to make their presence felt and with the continuing weakness of the dollar their influence moved the price above \$150.

Even at current levels, the market appears strong. Sales to the Middle East have fallen off slightly but this has been balanced by increased activity in Hong Kong and Singapore during the second half of the year.

At the same time, industrial demand in Europe has been maintained. This is largely explained by the fact that the weakening dollar has meant that the cost of gold purchased by the European fabricators in their own currencies has not risen in step with increases in the dollar price of gold.

Krugerrand sales continue at an acceptable level and an extended marketing plan to cover all Europe is under preparation by the International Gold Corporation. The promotion campaign in the United States has also had an impact and worldwide sales of the coin this year are again expected to be of the order of three million coins, accounting for over 90 tons of SA gold production. Promotional activities have lately been adversely affected by US attitudes to political developments in South Africa but sales of coins continue strongly.

The year has shown that total gold production has been easily absorbed by the market at a rising price, largely on industrial demand, and this trend should continue next year provided speculation does not disturb steady growth. If this does happen significantly higher prices could eventuate but this would be coupled with a greater degree of instability in the market.

The IMF has not as yet obtained the necessary member approvals to enable it to amend its articles to do away with the official price of gold and to allow central banks to trade at market prices. It is expected that ratification will take place early next year at which time the South African mines will immediately re-enter the market value for any gold delivered to the Reserve Bank.

Joint metallurgical complex

The Joint Metallurgical Scheme (JMS), to recover gold, uranium and sulphur from slimes, came on stream this year. The recovery of the uranium from slime began in March and that from pyrite concentrate in July and by the end of September 913,000 tons of slime, predominantly from Free State Sasolplaas, and 54,000 tons of concentrate had been treated to produce a profit of R8 800 000. The pre-production revenue from the flotation plants, the acid plant and the calcine plant which also began processing during the year was capitalised up to and including September 30. From October 1, these plants have been fully operational and although considerable problems have been encountered in obtaining rated capacities and recoveries—particularly in the float plants where design throughputs and recoveries have yet to be achieved—the participants remain confident that the potential of the JMS will be realised in the current financial year.

The JMS venture is by its nature extremely complex. Each mine that contributes feed to the plant at all times retains ownership of both the minerals and the residue and has an individual commitment to produce uranium against the negotiated supply contracts. Principles have been adopted in order to ensure an equitable distribution of the costs and revenues and in order to optimise profits. Application of these principles has allowed us to calculate the projected value of each mine's ability to supply so that the consumer finance obtained as part of uranium contracts could be allocated to each mine accordingly. The production costs incurred by the various plants in the production of pyrite, uranium, acid or gold are allocated to each contributor proportionate to its prime input or feed to each participant plant. Furthermore, those mines which constructed plant are charging a treatment levy on throughput in order to provide an adequate return on the capital outlay involved in the plant construction.

These arrangements have called for an unusually complex administrative mechanism which in due course will be facilitated by the use of computers.

At the time of the previous review, local economic conditions were deteriorating in sympathy with the increasing degree of political instability on the African sub-continent. It is unfortunate that this trend has continued into what must now be called

a serious depression. However, while this situation is of major concern to industry and the country in general, it has provided some relief to the country's gold mining companies in that it has improved the supply of black labour from the urban areas and homelands. In so doing, it has to some extent alleviated the pressures developing as a result of rising unemployment. All Group mines have operated at full complement for most of the year and the unrest which characterised our recent history has been absent. Unfortunately, the poor economic conditions have not eliminated the shortage of skilled white labour. There has been a continuing shortage of white miners and electricians. The position has been severely aggravated by the demands for military service as young men approach conscription age. The shortage of whites brings into focus the restrictive influences of job reservation which precludes the mines from developing and utilising the available skills amongst black workers. Given the current political climate and the rising aspirations of the black population, not only do we face problems in maintaining planned levels of production but also the prospect of future unrest has to be considered which could arise out of increasing black frustrations.

During the year, the gold mines of the Anglo American Corporation group have been paying particular attention to the industrial relations needs of the era of relatively rapid change which we believe lies ahead. We have, for instance, run a large number of five-day courses for mine employees. These courses were initially for management and officials and were later extended to white miners and artisans. We believe that the courses are having an important impact, not only on knowledge, but also on attitudes. In order to complement the changes which are required over the next few years and to ensure the best use of our manpower resources, bearing in mind the existing and predictably growing shortage of whites for semi-skilled and skilled positions on the mines, it is crucial to develop amongst employees attitudes of mind which support the philosophy behind these changes. The white employees are indispensable factor in the running of our mines but, not surprisingly, view the advancement of blacks with some apprehension in terms of their own job security.

We have therefore issued an informative circular to all white officials and union men in which we have set out, in general terms, the principles which will guide us. We have made it clear that there are no grounds on which racial discrimination can be justified and that no company in South Africa can escape its responsibility for improving the job opportunities available to its black employees. We undertake, however, that proposed changes in labour utilisation will be discussed with white employees and the associations and unions which represent them. Existing white employees are promised that they will neither lose employment with the company nor suffer a drop in pay as a result of any alteration in labour utilisation. Moreover, an undertaking is given that no job held by a white employee will go to black at a lower rate of pay on the sole criterion of reducing costs. Reference is made to the use of sound job evaluation techniques—in our case, the Peterson Plan—to determine the work content of jobs and their rates of pay and to the maintenance of existing standards of work selection criteria and training.

The circular will be available to all white employees on the Anglo American gold mines and has not been the subject of any adverse reaction other than in isolated instances. Further circulars will be issued from time to time to clarify aspects of our industrial relations policy. We sincerely hope that white employees will see in these circulars our determination to bring about changes in the labour field in such a way that they can confidently co-operate with us.

Wiehahn Commission

An important catalyst in this field has been the appointment by the Minister of Labour and Mines of a Commission of Enquiry, under the chairmanship of Professor Wiehahn, with terms of reference covering every aspect of industrial relations and charged with recommending legislative changes to improve the handling of labour matters. In concert with other mines, we are submitting evidence to the Commission and look forward with great interest to its report.

We reported last year that the proposed 11-shift fortnight, the first step towards the introduction of a five-day working week, would become effective on April 1, 1977. While change was duly introduced and while it has yet proved too difficult to quantify the effects of the 11-shift fortnight, certain immediate problems have become apparent. On several mines in the Orange Free State it has been necessary to increase labour complements in order to maintain production. This has had an adverse impact on working costs. Furthermore, the relocation of resources to particular labour, has been necessary in order to maintain steady activity and there has been a consequent decline in development work. The overall implications of the scheme appear to be that operating costs will increase as a result of decreases in productivity. However, the Franzzen Commission appointed by the government has embarked on an in-depth study of the effects on the industry and its findings will be realised in the current financial year.

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SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

Gold production on Anglo American Corporation's Orange Free State mines

| | | Working profit | Tons milled | Gold produced (kg/t) | Yield (g/t) | Cost per ton milled | Profit per ton milled |
|---|------|----------------|-------------|----------------------|-------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| President Brand Gold Mining Company Limited | 1977 | R54,064,000 | 3,093,000 | 22,656 | 10.56 | R22.12 | R17.48 |
| Chairman: Mr D. A. Etheredge | 76 | 2,987,000 | 2,670,000 | 18,508 | 7.02 | R19.66 | R23.83 |
| President Steyn Gold Mining Company Limited | 1977 | R26,277,000 | 3,100,000 | 26,916 | 8.65 | R23.88 | R8.49 |
| Chairman: Mr D. A. Etheredge | 76 | 32,965,000 | 2,593,000 | 27,272 | 10.52 | R22.21 | R12.71 |
| Free State Sasolplaas Gold Mining Company Limited | 1977 | R 6,359,000 | 1,234,000 | 4,482 | 3.63 | R19.03 | R 5.15 |
| Chairman: Mr D. A. Etheredge | 76 | R 5,001,000 | 1,193,000 | 3,895 | 3.26 | R15.71 | R 4.19 |
| Free State Geduld Limited | 1977 | R82,314,000 | 3,435,000 | 44,274 | 12.89 | R21.35 | R26.87 |
| Chairman: Mr D. B. Hoffe | 76 | R73,332,000 | 2,104,000 | 34,482 | 16.35 | R19.91 | R34.85 |
| Western Holdings Limited | 1977 | R74,389,000 | 3,093,000 | 36,396 | 11.77 | R19.75 | R24.05 |
| Chairman: Mr D. B. Hoffe | 76 | R75,975,000 | 2,874,000 | 37,759 | 12.70 | R17.54 | R25.55 |
| Welkom Gold Mining Company Limited | 1977 | R 7,777,000 | 2,183,000 | 13,886 | 6.35 | R20.21 | R 3.57 |
| Chairman: Mr D. B. Hoffe | 76 | R 6,085,000 | 2,101,000 | 13,188 | 6.28 | R18.40 | R 2.80 |

The annual general meetings of these companies will be held at 44 Main Street, Johannesburg, South Africa, on 26th January, 1978. Full copies of each of the Chairmen's reviews together with the annual reports of all the companies may be obtained from their London office at 40 Holborn Viaduct, EC1P 1AJ or from the office of the United Kingdom Transfer Secretaries, Charter Consolidated Limited, P.O. Box 102, Charter House, Park Street, Ashford, Kent.

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

No follow through in equities

The Treasury's decision to abolish the 25 surrender rule on the dollar premium gave share prices a marginal lift and enabled most of the industrial leaders to revert to their overnight positions after early weakness.

Naturally enough overseas issues attracted a good demand but for the rest there was disappointment at the lack of follow through to Tuesday. Opinion was divided about the effect of the dollar premium news but some were pessimistic, particularly predicting last night that it would mean an increased outflow of British funds to Wall Street and other foreign markets.

There was a busy market in bid and speculative stocks where Newman Granger gained 9p to 35p on news of an approach and Leisure & General firms to 62p on the higher Ladbroke share. Talk that the United States group which bought the Williamson Match stake might soon bid for full control lifted the shares 10p to 213p while two mentioned here as bid candidates were in good form, White Child gaining 9p to 84p and G. Dew 5p to 156p.

For the former the hope is that Guinness will come with minority terms while for Dew

replacement issues in the near future.

Two to attract special support

on the premium news were De Beers, up 11p to 310p, and Philips Lamps which added 20p to 58.62. Early falls in gold share were quickly erased and by the close of trading most were up to 25p better. An exceptionally firm spot was Randfontein which firms £1.62 to £31.12.

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Hopes of cheaper holidays

had Horizon Midland 3p firmer at 68p while North Sea potential attracted a strong demand to Thomson Organisation which closed with a gain of 29p to 674p.

Stockjobbers Akroyd & Smethers 10p to 228p and Smith Brothers 60p to 59p both met with support, the last named benefiting from its dominant position in the gold share market.

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FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

International

Hitachi aims to match last year's outcome

Japanese electronics manufacturer Hitachi hopes to maintain its net profit for the year to end-March, 1978, at the same level as last year's 70,000m yen (about £147.5m) despite a sluggish domestic demand and the yen's appreciation.

The company said it expects net sales on the same basis to rise slightly from 2,200,000 yen in the previous year.

Exports totalled 226,900m yen, up 23 per cent from 183,800 yen in the similar period a year earlier and up 10 per cent from 206,000m yen in the prior half-year.

Sales of heavy electricals, light electricals and motors totalled 274,200m yen, up 41 per cent from 194,900m yen a year earlier and up 11 per cent from 246,600m yen in the previous period.

Sales of home electric appliances totalled 256,000m yen, up 6 per cent from 240,600m yen a year ago and up 4 per cent from 247,000m yen in the prior six-month period. —Reuter.

Kathleen Rights

Kathleen Investments (Australia) is to make a one-for-four rights issue of 2.6m 50 cent per share at 75 cents per share to shareholders registered at January 13. Current issued capital is 9.85m shares. Kathleen shares have risen 7 cents to \$A1.60 on the Sydney Stock Exchange.

Kathleen said that the issue is to raise funds to take up its entitlement of about 50 per cent of a one-for-four rights issue of 3.84m 50 cent per share at \$A1 per share by Queensland Mines. Shares of Queensland Mines have fallen 10 cents to \$A2.05 in Sydney today. It is raising funds which will be required next year to enable it to continue project engineering work and maintain an advanced state of readiness to develop the Nubrik uranium deposit.

Pakhoed's gloom

Dutch group Pakhoed Holding NV says that its Pakhoed storage tank division's performance, including operations in West Germany, had deteriorated since first-half results were published in August. Pakhoed now looks like making a considerable second-half loss for 1977.

Turnover and profits of the Pakhoed division in Rotterdam and Amsterdam has also deteriorated in the second-half. But its property division is going well, and no further can be made of overall group earnings. In 1976 it made a net profit of 43m florins (about £9.5m) on sales of 457m florins.

Pancontinental

Pancontinental, the Australian mining concern, has received letters from 10 European and 12 American utilities expressing interest in substantial purchases of uranium from the Jabilulu project in the Northern Territory, according to Mr Tony Grey, chairman.

The quantities being sought exceed 45,000 tonnes over the years from 1981 to 1990, more than the initial design capacity of the proposed plant. The Jabilulu deposits are calculated to have reserves with a total of 207,400 tonnes of contained uranium oxide U3O8.

DEUNDI-GADEK INDONESIA

Boards say that, following completion of revised offer at present being made by Rightrise for Deundi they intend to open discussions with a view to exploring the possibility of a merger.

JOHANNESBURG CONSOL

Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Co Ltd's R40m eight year redeemable preference issue is still awaiting a final offer over 8.8 per cent of the issue. Standard Merchant Bank Ltd and Union Acceptances Ltd, said. —Reuter.

Bank Base Rates

ABN Bank 7.4%

Barclays Bank 7.1%

Consolidated Credit 7.1%

First London Secs 7.1%

C. Hoare & Co 7.1%

Lloyd's Bank 7%

London Mercantile 7%

Midland Bank 6.3%

Nat Westminster 7.1%

Rossmoor Acc's 7.1%

Shenley Trust 9.1%

TSE 7%

Williams and Glyn's 7.1%

* 7 day deposits on sums of £10,000 and under 4% over £10,000 to £50,000

£50,000 to £100,000 5.5%

£100,000 to £250,000 5.7%

£250,000 to £500,000 5.8%

£500,000 to £1,000,000 5.9%

£1,000,000 and over 6.0%

EEC 7.1%

7.0%

7.1%

7.2%

7.3%

7.4%

7.5%

7.6%

7.7%

7.8%

7.9%

8.0%

8.1%

8.2%

8.3%

8.4%

8.5%

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9.3%

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Stock Exchange Prices

Mixed trading

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Dec 12. Dealings End, Dec 30. 5 Contango Day, Jan 3. Settlement Day, Jan 11.

5 Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

| 1976/77 | | Int. Gross High Low Stock | | Price Change % P/E | | Gross High Low Company | | Price Change % P/E | | Gross High Low Company | | Price Change % P/E | | Gross High Low Company | | Price Change % P/E | | Gross High Low Company | | Price Change % P/E | | | |
|----------------------|-------|------------------------------|------|--------------------|-----|---------------------------|-------|--------------------|-------|---------------------------|------|--------------------|-----|---------------------------|-------|--------------------|-------|---------------------------|------|--------------------|-----|-------|-------|
| BRITISH FUNDS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10125 | Treas | 94 | 1070 | 1000 | -14 | 8.000 | 6.500 | 10126 | Treas | 94 | 1070 | 1000 | -14 | 8.000 | 6.500 | 10127 | Treas | 94 | 1070 | 1000 | -14 | 8.000 | 6.500 |
| 10128 | Treas | 94 | 1070 | 1000 | -14 | 8.000 | 6.500 | 10129 | Treas | 94 | 1070 | 1000 | -14 | 8.000 | 6.500 | 10130 | Treas | 94 | 1070 | 1000 | -14 | 8.000 | 6.500 |
| 10131 | Treas | 94 | 1070 | 1000 | -14 | 8.000 | 6.500 | 10132 | Treas | 94 | 1070 | 1000 | -14 | 8.000 | 6.500 | 10133 | Treas | 94 | 1070 | 1000 | -14 | 8.000 | 6.500 |
| 10134 | Treas | 94 | 1070 | 1000 | -14 | 8.000 | 6.500 | 10135 | Treas | 94 | 1070 | 1000 | -14 | 8.000 | 6.500 | 10136 | Treas | 94 | 1070 | 1000 | -14 | 8.000 | 6.500 |
| 10137 | Treas | 94 | 1070 | 1000 | -14 | 8.000 | 6.500 | 10138 | Treas | 94 | 1070 | 1000 | -14 | 8.000 | 6.500 | 10139 | Treas | 94 | 1070 | 1000 | -14 | 8.000 | 6.500 |
| 10140 | Treas | 94 | 1070 | 1000 | -14 | 8.000 | 6.500 | 10141 | Treas | 94 | 1070 | 1000 | -14 | 8.000 | 6.500 | 10142 | Treas | 94 | 1070 | 1000 | -14 | 8.000 | 6.500 |
| 10143 | Treas | 94 | 1070 | 1000 | -14 | 8.000 | 6.500 | 10144 | Treas | 94 | 1070 | 1000 | -14 | 8.000 | 6.500 | 10145 | Treas | 94 | 1070 | 1000 | -14 | 8.000 | 6.500 |
| 10146 | Treas | 94 | 1070 | 1000 | -14 | 8.000 | 6.500 | 10147 | Treas | 94 | 1070 | 1000 | -14 | 8.000 | 6.500 | 10148 | Treas | 94 | 1070 | 1000 | -14 | 8.000 | 6.500 |
| 10149 | Treas | 94 | 1070 | 1000 | -14 | 8.000 | 6.500 | 10150 | Treas | 94 | 1070 | 1000 | -14 | 8.000 | 6.500 | 10151 | Treas | 94 | 1070 | 1000 | -14 | 8.000 | 6.500 |
| 10152 | Treas | 94 | 1070 | 1000 | -14 | 8.000 | 6.500 | 10153 | Treas | 94 | 1070 | 1000 | -14 | 8.000 | 6.500 | 10154 | Treas | 94 | 1070 | 1000 | -14 | 8.000 | 6.500 |
| 10155 | Treas | 94 | 1070 | 1000 | -14 | 8.000 | 6.500 | 10156 | Treas | 94 | 1070 | 1000 | -14 | 8.000 | 6.500 | 10157 | Treas | 94 | 1070 | 1000 | -14 | 8.000 | 6.500 |
| 10158 | Treas | 94 | 1070 | 1000 | -14 | 8.000 | 6.500 | 10159 | Treas | 94 | 1070 | 1000 | -14 | 8.000 | 6.500 | 10160 | Treas | 94 | 1070 | 1000 | -14 | 8.000 | 6.500 |
| 10161 | Treas | 94 | 1070 | 1000 | -14 | 8.000 | 6.500 | 10162 | Treas | 94 | 1070 | 1000 | -14 | 8.000 | 6.500 | 10163 | Treas | 94 | 1070 | 1000 | -14 | 8.000 | 6.500 |
| 10164 | Treas | 94 | 1070 | 1000 | -14 | 8.000 | 6.500 | 10165 | Treas | 94 | 1070 | 1000 | -14 | 8.000 | 6.500 | 10166 | Treas | 94 | 1070 | 1000 | -14 | 8.000 | 6.500 |
| 10167 | Treas | 94 | 1070 | 1000 | -14 | 8.000 | 6.500 | 10168 | Treas | 94 | 1070 | 1000 | -14 | 8.000 | 6.500 | 10169 | Treas | 94 | 1070 | 1000 | -14 | 8.000 | 6.500 |
| 10170 | Treas | 94 | 1070 | 1000 | -14 | 8.000 | 6.500 | 10171 | Treas | 94 | 1070 | 1000 | -14 | 8.000 | 6.500 | 10172 | Treas | 94 | 1070 | 1000 | -14 | 8.000 | 6.500 |
| 10173 | Treas | 94 | 1070 | 1000 | -14 | 8.000 | 6.500 | 10174 | Treas | 94 | 1070 | 1000 | -14 | 8.000 | 6.500 | 10175 | Treas | 94 | 1070 | 1000 | -14 | 8.000 | 6.500 |
| 10176 | Treas | 94 | 1070 | 1000 | -14 | 8.000 | 6.500 | 10177 | Treas | 94 | 1070 | 1000 | -14 | 8.000 | 6.500 | 10178 | Treas | 94 | 1070 | 1000 | -14 | 8.000 | 6.500 |
| 10179 | Treas | 94 | 1070 | 1000 | -14 | 8.000 | 6.500 | 10180 | Treas | 94 | 1070 | 1000 | -14 | 8.000 | 6.500 | 10181 | Treas | 94 | 1070 | 1000 | -14 | 8.000 | 6.500 |
| 10182 | Treas | 94 | 1070 | 1000 | -14 | 8.000 | 6.500 | 10183 | Treas | 94 | 1070 | 1000 | -14 | 8.000 | 6.500 | 10184 | Treas | 94 | 1070 | 1000 | -14 | 8.000 | 6.500 |
| 10185 | Treas | 94 | 1070 | 1000 | -14 | 8.000 | 6.500 | 10186 | Treas | 94 | 1070 | 1000 | -14 | 8.000 | 6.500 | 10187 | Treas | 94 | 1070 | 1000 | -14 | 8.000 | 6.500 |
| 10188 | Treas | 94 | 1070 | 1000 | -14 | 8.000 | 6.500 | 10189 | Treas | 94 | 1070 | 1000 | -14 | 8.000 | 6.500 | 10190 | Treas | 94 | 1070 | 1000 | -14 | 8.000 | 6.500 |
| 10191 | Treas | 94 | 1070 | 1000 | -14 | 8.000 | 6.500 | 10192 | Treas | 94 | 1070 | 1000 | -14 | 8.000 | 6.500 | 10193 | Treas | 94 | 1070 | 1000 | -14 | 8.000 | 6.500 |
| 10194 | Treas | 94 | 1070 | 1000 | -14 | 8.000 | 6.500 | 10195 | Treas | 94 | 1070 | 1000 | -14 | 8.000 | 6.500 | 10196 | Treas | 94 | 1070 | 1000 | -14 | 8.000 | 6.500 |
| 10197 | Treas | 94 | 1070 | 1000 | -14 | 8.000 | 6.500 | 10198 | Treas | 94 | 1070 | 1000 | -14 | 8.000 | 6.500 | 10199 | Treas | 94 | 1070 | 1000 | -14 | 8.000 | 6.500 |
| 10200 | Treas | 94 | 1070 | 1000 | -14 | 8.000 | 6.500 | 10201 | Treas | 94 | 1070 | 1000 | -14 | 8.000 | 6.500 | 10202 | Treas | 94 | 1070 | 1000 | -14 | 8.000 | 6.500 |
| 10203 | Treas | 94 | 1070 | 1000 | -14 | 8.000 | 6.500 | 10204 | Treas | 94 | 1070 | 1000 | -14 | 8.000 | 6.500 | 10205 | Treas | 94 | 1070 | 1000 | -14 | 8.000 | 6.500 |
| 10206 | Treas | 94 | 1070 | 1000 | -14 | 8.000 | 6.500 | 10207 | Treas | 94 | 1070 | 1000 | -14 | 8.000 | 6.500 | 10208 | Treas | 94 | 1070 | 1000 | -14 | 8.000 | 6.500 |
| 10209 | Treas | 94 | 1070 | 1000 | -14 | 8.000 | 6.500 | 10210 | Treas | 94 | 1070 | 1000 | -14 | 8.000 | 6.500 | 10211 | Treas | 94 | 1070 | 1000 | -14 | 8.000 | 6.500 |
| 10212 | Treas | 94 | 1070 | 1000 | -14 | 8.000 | 6.500 | 10213 | Treas | 94 | 1070 | 1000 | -14 | 8.000 | 6.500 | 10214 | Treas | 94 | 1070 | 1000 | -14 | 8.000 | 6.500 |
| 10215 | Treas | 94 | 1070 | 1000 | -14 | 8.000 | 6.500 | 10216 | Treas | 94 | 1070 | 1000 | -14 | 8.000 | 6.500 | 10217 | Treas | 94 | 1070 | 1000 | -14 | 8.000 | 6.500 |
| 10218 | Treas | 94 | 1070 | 1000 | -14 | 8.000 | 6.500 | 10219 | Treas | 94 | 1070 | 1000 | -14 | 8.000</td | | | | | | | | | |

